

# Stop going to church

This summer I want you to do something radical. Stop going to church. OK. I realise that statements has probably prompted you to get out the telephone directory to call Bishop John or the church wardens and say, "Our rector has lost the plot." But please hear me out.

I want you to stop *going to church*, and start *being* the church. We don't go to St Francis Church, or St James Church, or Church@the Centre; we don't go to church at 8:00 am or 10:00 am or 10:30, we *are* the church. When we say we "go to church" it puts it in the same league as going to the cinema, or going to the zoo where we go to watch, or observe, or to be entertained. But that is not what Church is about. Any time or place we meet, we are the Church. As the church we are called to be united: in prayer, in our love of God, and in the way we love one another.

We are called to be united. We are here for a purpose and that purpose unites us. You were created to love and worship God. Worship is one five purposes the PCC identified for our parish. Another is discipleship. The more we learn and grow and discover God the more we understand how awesome and beautiful God is. A disciple is an active life-long student of Jesus. The more we learn about God, the more we understand that we are his children and that he has called us to live in such a close bond of love and unity that we recognise we are a family united in fellowship. We are also designed to do good things. We are here to show love to each other and to help, support and encourage one another, in acts of ministry. Our purpose is also found in telling others about God's amazing,

transforming love. That's called evangelism. Those five things define our purpose in life: We are here to worship God, be disciples, be united in fellowship, minister to one another and proclaim the good news.

Our vision is to "live out God's purpose for us, make Christ known in Cowley and raise up the next generation to love and serve the Lord." Live out your purpose in life. When we gather with others on Sunday morning at 8:00 or 10:00 or 10:30, we come together to live out our purpose, and learn and contribute to the service. When you meet in home groups, remember that it is a church gathering. Speaking of home groups, if you are not part of one, think and pray about getting involved in one. A home group is a setting where you can really grow in your faith. A place where deep supportive nurturing fellowship takes place. These lay led gatherings are perhaps the most important resource for each of us, from a long-time member to one who is just beginning to explore his/her faith. I really hope you will find your place in one.

If you don't have time or a place or a way to take part in an existing home group, why not start one that meets your needs? Home groups can revolve around any grouping idea. They can be for single parents, retired guys, or people who work too much. We even have one that was formed by people who don't like home groups!

So this summer stop *going to church*, *be* the church. Be the church on Sunday mornings, on Mondays and Tuesdays and all week long.

Howard

# Chronicle

July / August  
2013

# Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

June has indeed been a royal month in the parish. We began with the young people in the congregation at St James marking our Jubilee cherry tree with a small plaque on the actual 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation. Luckily the date, 2nd June, coincided with a baptism so there was a big crowd of children helping to make it a little ceremony to remember. Incredibly it was a lovely sunny morning too.

Then we watched "The King's Speech" at Film Club. Many of us had already seen the film but it did seem to be more relevant to watch as our queen became first in line to the throne at the young age of eleven.

As you will see the Mothers' Union had a session trawling through royal memorabilia at their June meeting. Finally we finished off the month with a weekend of celebrations for everyone to enjoy.

I, on behalf of you, our readers, would like to pay tribute to a dear lady in our parish who died last month at the age of 95. Gwen Fancutt was a devoted reader of The Chronicle but, more than that, until fairly recently she contributed poems which she had composed. They were always quietly contemplative and often moving. We are hoping to include some of her work in the next issue in her memory. She was a truly remarkable lady.

May I remind everyone that August is your last

chance for ordering your next year's copies of The Chronicle. May Morgan needs your forms as it is from these that she prints the little stickers with the names on them. This ensures that we each receive our personalised copy. If you know of anyone who would like to come on to the list there are order forms in both churches. Do please take one and pass it on.

Do also encourage friends and family to come and enjoy the Flower Festival at the Parish Church in July. With many able flower arrangers in our parish this promises to be quite a spectacle. More details of dates and times are included in the magazine.

I wonder if, having read the excellent article in last month's Chronicle entitled "Confirming our Faith" you asked the question "Who wrote that?" Well, the author emailed his article in and (typically) modestly, failed to sign the bottom. I want to thank Jason Hall, the mystery writer, for a really inspirational contribution. Please readers, if you do send in a piece for your magazine, do remember to sign at the end. It is good to know from whom an article has come.

Hoping for warm summer days to come. See you in September/

God Bless

Rosanne

## ***PARISH REGISTER***

### **Confirmations**

Anne-Marie Burchell

Mark Burchell

Nicholas Dewey

Jason Hall

Vicky Hall

Joan Lee

Alison Lockhart

Cara Vivian

Brenda Walker



# NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

Our recent Family Fun Day was a great success. There were plenty of activities planned for families and children to get involved in, and it attracted quite a lot of interest. Quite a number of local families attended, and it was good for them to see that not all church functions are heavy or serious. There was a raffle, a barbecue and mini café – plenty to eat and drink for everyone. All who came seemed to enjoy themselves, and there were plants and crafted things for sale as well.

We continue to plan ahead with our Worship Committee, and look at ways in which we can improve our services, and get more people involved, both young and old. Skye is keen to get feedback from we lay people, and find out what works and what does not. We have had an increase in the number of specially designed services, over and above our normal Sunday Communion. This makes for more interest, and stops us getting into a rut with our worship.

We are still looking for a regular organist after our

previous musician moved on, but we usually manage

to find a stand-in most weeks. We are getting better at coping with our new hymn book and found to our surprise that many old favourites are included in it.

Our Friends of St Francis Group still meets regularly, and have just moved on to a new course book involving Old Testament characters, which is a nice change.

Our children's Sunday Group consistently produce good art and craft work for us to admire, and they are encouraged to bring their handiwork to the front of the church at the end of the service. Joel and Jane and others work hard to engage their interest in Bible stories, and make things meaningful for them.

John Shreeve



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## Open Book Assemblies at St Francis Primary School

The 'Open Book' assemblies have been taking place in our school since last September. Reverend Skye and her team come every Thursday with a new bible story and a prayer. They use drama to bring bible stories to life and use props to help them act the story out. They are very creative and they make it even more enjoyable by asking children to join in. This also makes it easier for younger children to understand the stories and the important messages. Skye also asks lot of questions to check children's memories and understanding.

We think Skye and her team act out the characters very well and our teachers and children are delighted to welcome them to our school every week. We look forward to the next set of stories.

By Nadia Shah, Urte Pakulyte and Aakifah Qureshi

## A CATCH UP ON RECYCLING

I had a useful conversation with members of the County Council waste and recycling team when they were in Templars' Square during Recycling Week recently. They had an excellent display board showing actual items which can and can't be recycled. I may try and borrow it – or make one up myself.

We talked about materials which can now be recycled, which were previously a NO: cling film, for example is now accepted – hurrah! I asked about packet wrapping material but that remains a definite 'NO': the clue is that only a packaging material that you can *stretch* should go in the recycling bin – so the *cellophane style paper* which covers biscuits, cartons of grapes and other fruit and vegetables, sweet packets and crisp packets are still land fill or incinerated.

The aim is that eventually methods are developed for virtually all household materials to be recyclable. Pray for the scientists, engineers and designers working to mitigate mankind's impact on God's creation.

Lesley Williams

[lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com) 01865 779 562

## SEASHELLS

It has been another very good year for Seashells. As always, sadly, we have lost some members whose children have started school, but have happily gained many newcomers, so continuity is assured.

I would like to thank all who contributed to the "Sainsbury's Active Kids' vouchers. We collected over 5,000 and have exchanged them for some lovely equipment for both Seashells and Little Stars.

Seashells will again be closed throughout August. Our last session will be July 30<sup>th</sup> and we will reopen on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Members of the congregation would receive a warm welcome at any time if they would like to join us for coffee between 10 and 11 any Tuesday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely all the helpers who work so hard to make Seashells the success it is.

Thank you.

May Morgan



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# Film Club

The subjects of the last couple of months' films "War Horse" and "The King's Speech" have been quite serious though, none-the-less, most entertaining. So for members' summer viewing something a little more "fluffy" has been chosen.

For the July film we are showing the delightful "Breakfast at Tiffany's" starring George Peppard and Audrey Hepburn. It is a love story with a happy ending so no tissues necessary! It has a PG certificate.



Something for the children and grandchildren as well as all those who love a gorgeous musical is the August film. Again, Audrey Hepburn stars alongside Rex Harrison and a host of others in "My Fair Lady". This was a popular choice for many of our members. This has a U certificate.

The dates are July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Each month we are continuing to make around £50 profit for parish funds, which is an excellent bonus to the enjoyable club evenings.

By the way, we have not yet included a Western in our monthly planning. Any ideas for a really good one?

## RIDE AND STRIDE 2013

This year's Ride & Stride will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> September and with a bit of luck the weather will be as glorious as the 2012 Ride & Stride.

The message from the organisers of Ride & Stride is for us to help preserve the history on our doorstep by taking part, if you can, in either being a Welcomer or a Strider/Rider. All funds raised go to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and 50% of funds raised will be passed on to the Parish.

In the past the Parish has been successful in getting grants towards the maintenance of our Churches and we would like to think that this help will continue in the future.

I now have the sponsor forms and if anyone would like one over the coming months, please let me know. We would also welcome help on the day but if you can't spare the time, perhaps you may consider sponsoring someone, I will have a list of all those taking part and will happily steer you in their direction.

Thanks to everyone for supporting this annual event because without you there would not be a Ride & Stride in the Cowley Parish.

June Smith

# The Origins of Cowley

Before we come to the end of our three and a half year marathon journey through the story of Cowley, it would be most remiss of me to fail to focus on the origins of our three churches – St James, St Luke and St Francis. Of course they have been mentioned in earlier episodes but it seemed a good idea to make them the “stars” of this month’s article.

So let’s begin with our beautiful parish church of St James. There is no concrete historical evidence that before the present building there was an earlier Saxon church but the biggest clue to support this is the font. Several authorities on ecclesiastical architecture have drawn the conclusion that the bowl of the font is surely earlier than the church in which it stands. The Normans, who are known to have presented their church to Osney Abbey in 1129 AD, were fond of decoration and had the font been carved by them it would most probably have been embellished. As it is, it could not be a more simple shape, carved from a single stone boulder and certainly situated in its early life outside the door of a simple Saxon church. The plinth it now stands on is Victorian and the cover is twentieth century.

The main body of the church dates back to early Norman times, the south door being completely original as are the two pillars one on each side of the door. These have simple carved capitals below which are quite rare scratch sun-dials.

When the church was built it was described as a small barn-like building. No porch or tower, nor a side, north aisle. The north door was adjacent to where the font now stands. The chancel and sanctuary were added a little later, too.

There have been many changes to St James throughout the centuries but the most striking one of all occurred in 1864 when it became necessary to enlarge the building due to the expansion of the village and the disappearance of the Knights Templars’ Chapel in Temple Cowley. It was then that many of the old wall paintings were lost, the roof was raised to a higher level than the tower and the north aisle was added.

Thus it was that St James was the only church which served the huge parish of Cowley until 1929 when Father Beauchamp made up his mind that people living almost two miles away should have a new place of worship. A new estate was springing up in the Dene and Bulan Roads area with muddy unmade tracks but residents were moving in and action was needed. First a piece of land was required. This was where Lord Nuffield stepped in. He suggested a plot beyond the sports field he had provided for his employees. In February 1929 Mr Lawrence Dale, the architect began to draw the plan for the Hall. The foundation stone was laid by Lord Nuffield (then Sir William Morris) on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1930 in the presence of the Bishop of Oxford.

On New Year’s Day 1931, Father Beauchamp rang the bell over the entrance for the first time. As there was no organ at that time Miss Ivy Willis was appointed as the pianist. The beautiful paintings on the beams (still such a feature of St Francis Church today) were done by Mr L Davenport, a teacher at the Oxford School of Arts and Crafts. They depict scenes from the life of St Francis and the “Hymn of Creation”. The date of dedication was 18<sup>th</sup> March 1931.

Plans had been made to include on the site a church, clergy house and other amenities. However, the money ran out. St Francis Church Hall stood on its own until the hut, now used by the scouts was added. Later St Francis House (now demolished) stood to the left of the church for several decades.

The hall was used for all sorts of occasions such as dances, film shows and as an overspill for pupils at St Christopher's School. In July 1961 the hall officially became St Francis Church. Mention must be made of the "charming little instrument", namely the pretty organ. It can be dated back to 1840 but lived in the newly built Parish Hall in Between Towns Road till 1936. It was beautifully restored in 1953 and is still giving good service with its unique sound.

Soon after Sir William Morris had laid the foundation stone at the St Francis site he had an ambition to build a magnificent church right in the heart of Cowley. In 1936 he approached the architect H S Rogers to design a large and imposing building for him. The site was chosen along the Oxford Road "next door" to the Morris (later Nuffield) Press. Immediately opposite stood the Cowley Works' Club.

The new church would be brick-built with stone windows and arches. The Nave and Chancel was 126 feet long with two chapels one on each side. The font was set against the West wall. It was intended to reflect the modern trend of simple lines and lofty arcades. The oak seating was planned to accommodate 560 people in the congregation.

"Billy's Cathedral" as the new church was nicknamed was dedicated to St Luke, the saint

who is the patron of physicians. The understanding was that young William Morris had an early ambition to become a doctor so St Luke was his favourite saint. The laying of the foundation stone ceremony occurred on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1937 and was blessed by Gerald Burton Allen, Archdeacon of Oxford. A year later the new church was almost completed and the service of consecration was arranged for the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1938 in the presence of the Bishop of Oxford.

St Luke's Church and its congregation became a thriving community with clubs and organisations for people from the cradle upwards. One thing which turned out to be the biggest mistake was the absence of a car park. This meant that through the years it was difficult not just for worshippers to get to church but also wedding and funeral cars had problems. The other difficulty that those lofty arches made St Luke's very expensive to heat throughout the winter months. Gradually the congregations could no longer support their much-loved church.

After several difficult years it became necessary to decommission the building and the de-consecration happened in 1994. In 1997 it was offered to the Oxfordshire County Council. They had the vision to see what a marvellous resource the excellent old church presented. When the decision was made to convert St Luke's into a suitable venue for the Oxfordshire County Resource Centre work began. The idea was to preserve the fine building and at the same time convert it into a state-of-the-arts resource centre. On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2000 the Centre was opened to the public. Today it is as busy as ever and a better use of Lord Nuffield's fine church could not be.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JULY AND AUGUST

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1969 the Queen invested Prince Charles as Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle.

And also on the 1<sup>st</sup> July in 1872 Queen Victoria unveiled the Albert Memorial in London in memory of her late husband, Prince Albert.

The first regular scheduled bus service was introduced in London on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1829. It was, of course, horse drawn.

Bill Haley and his Comets went to Number One in the US pop charts with "Rock Around the Clock" on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1955. Rock and roll had really begun.

The Live Aid concert called "the biggest concert in history" was staged simultaneously in Wembley Stadium, England and JFK Stadium, New York to send aid to the starving in Africa. The concert on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1985 was beamed live to 160 countries through satellite link-up and the television audience was estimated at one billion viewers.

"Baby and Childcare", Dr Spock's famous "baby bible", was published on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1946.

It was on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1978 that the first "test-tube" baby was born. She was a little girl named Louise Brown.

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1932 the first Mars bar went on sale in Slough.

The musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" opened at the Palace Theatre, London on 8th August 1972.

The Royal Greenwich Observatory was founded on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1675. The Greenwich meridian (0<sup>o</sup> longitude) passes through the observatory and is the zero from which GMT is measured,

Also on 10<sup>th</sup> August, in 1842, the Mines and Collieries Act was passed in Parliament. The new act presented by the great reformer Lord Shaftesbury prevented women and young children from working in unspeakable conditions underground.

The human voice was first recorded on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1877. Thomas Edison made the historic recording on his

invention, the phonograph. He recited "Mary had a little lamb" rotating a cylinder covered with tin foil operated by hand.

August 28<sup>th</sup> is St Augustine's Day. Augustine was said to be the first known person to be able to read to himself without moving his lips.

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# FLOWER OF THE MONTH – PEONY

The word paeon means a hymn of praise which is very close to the name Paeon who, the ancient Greeks believed, was physician to their gods (though being “gods” one wonders why they were ever sick!). Anyway, Pliny, the Elder, who died when Vesuvius erupted in 79AD, attributed the paeony to this god because in the “Iliad” there is a description of Paeon staunching wounds with herbs and flowers. A jealous rival physician was about to attack him when Zeus came to Paeon’s rescue by turning him into the root of a plant! Pliny, though, did accredit the paeony with the power to cure twenty different ills.

The plant originates from China and was probably brought to Britain by the Romans. It was much prized in medieval England especially in monastery gardens because of its healing properties. By 1548 the common deep red plant had been introduced from Crete. It was thought for a long time that there were masculine and feminine types of paeony. The *Paeony mascula* had long tapering roots and oval pinnate leaves and was used to treat male complaints while the *Paeony officinalis* had feathery leaves and was kept to deal with female illnesses.

John Gerard, the famous herbalist, wrote in his reference book of 1597 that paeony seeds glow in the dark. He did, though, reject the idea that they could only be dug up at night at “wicked and superstitious ceremonies”.

When the Pilgrim Fathers, and the people that

followed them, settled in America they often took seeds and cuttings from their gardens in England to establish gardens in their new land. Paeonies were such plants. In many parts of rural America even when early settlements have fallen into dereliction and can barely be recognised as early places of residence, brilliant paeonies flower every year. It is believed that these plants are virtually indestructible since they have survived, unattended, for as long as five hundred years.

The beautiful milky white flowering variety, *Paeony lactiflora*, was sent to Joseph Bank, the director of Kew Gardens in 1784 by a German naturalist. It was, by cross-breeding, that the lovely pink variety has been produced.

Maybe the healing powers of the plant have been over-rated (in China it is still valued medicinally) but we cannot over-rate the beauty of its glorious puff balls of colour in our summer gardens, can we?



# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month  
from 2 – 4.30 pm

(No meeting in August)

Cowley Parish Church Centre

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month  
from 2.30pm. (No meeting in August)

Cowley Parish Church Centre

Film Club

Friday, 12th July 2013, commencing  
at 6.30 pm with coffee and cake

"Breakfast at Tiffany's" PG certificate

Cowley Parish Church Centre

Flower Festival, St James Church

10.30 – 7 pm on Saturday, 13 July 2013

2 – 6 pm on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Women's Group

Meetings planned for July 17th & 31st, 7.30 pm

Details are to be confirmed.

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 21st July 2013, at 12 noon

St Francis Church

St James Church Committee

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013, at 7.30 pm

Cowley Parish Church Centre

Film Club

Friday, 9th August 2013, commencing  
at 6.30 pm with coffee and cake

"My Fair Lady" U certificate

Cowley Parish Church Centre

Mothers' Union

Poetry, Wine and cheese Evening

Friday, 6th September 2013, at 6.30pm

Cowley Parish Church Centre

Ride and Stride and Open Doors

14<sup>th</sup> September 2013

At both St Francis and St James Churches

Cowley Local History Society

The current programme has ended, and the

Club will meet again in October – Watch this  
space

Christmas Gift and Craft Sale

Saturday 16th November 2013

*Please note Additional Dates throughout the year:*

To help raise funds for essential repairs to

St. James' Church a home-made cakes and puds stall is planned. These will take place on the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month to carry over into Wednesday and will be held in the Church Centre.

If you enjoy baking and would like to help by baking a cake 2 or 3 times a year on a rota basis Chris  
Woodman or Margaret Weller would be pleased to hear from you.

# Rosanne interviews Gillian Standing

In over twenty years of interviewing Cowley personalities this month is unique. That will give my interviewee immense satisfaction as she is a lady who loves the unusual and unexpected. So what, you will probably ask, made this one different? It stretched over two days! The initial appointment with Gillian was scheduled to last about an hour but there was no way we could leave her story hanging in the air when she was called away on urgent business. So it was a case of "can you come back tomorrow?" Of course I could and we spent another hour polishing off the details.

After all, even *The Chronicle* cannot, and should not, try to keep a busy Head teacher from the duties of her working day. Gillian is Head of St Francis School, a post she has held for six years and one she very much enjoys.

It was her appointment to the school which brought her to Cowley though she was, at the time, no stranger to our area as she took her Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Brookes University. However, there is much more to tell about her life before that.

She was born in South London and grew up in Worcester Park, Surrey. Her father was a policeman and her mother a nurse. Gillian has enormous respect for her hard-working, loving and supportive parents. She tells about lots of happy

childhood experiences shared with them and her younger sister, Lyndsey.

As a little girl she took to school like a duck to water. At primary and middle school she began to develop her love of music and sport. She also remembers clearly school drama productions and counts them as important milestones in a child's career. She told me how surprised she had been to be cast as Jesus in a dramatized version of His life. (Apparently there were no "suitable" boys to take the role) so trying to concentrate on being correctly serious she "cleansed The Temple" by having to topple a number of cardboard boxes. The children playing disciples tried very hard to make her giggle which she finally did but managed to hide her face from the audience.

She found, early on, that she was good at maths and science and decided that she was destined to be an astronaut. She worked on a "space" project at school and wrote to NASA to collect information. She received a reply full of data making her project an outstanding piece of work.

Full of energy and enthusiasm she was an active girl and at her secondary school she played netball and hockey, being made captain of the school team. She also played an active role in the school orchestra. Having learnt to play piano she went on to the flute and the guitar. German

was the language she found the easiest. Having a German grandmother and a bi-lingual father helped, of course! At "A" levels she took maths, physics, German and music (for fun!). Everyone thought she would go on to read engineering at university. All except Gillian, who chose German and anthropology.

At Swansea University they found her courses strange as they had never had a student with such a mix. Gillian told me she finds people fascinating and to study anthropology was ideal. To add to this because German was her other subject her tutors organised a year of study at Berlin university. Her stay there coincided with the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was a very interesting time in that capital. Apart from the political and social adjustments she witnessed, the culture of the city was springing to life and she revelled in the wonderful concerts she attended.

It was during her last year at university that she became a student volunteer in Community Action. This entailed helping children learning to read. The area where she lived had a large population of Bangladeshi families. Many of the children had very little English. Gillian found the experience an interesting challenge and before she knew it she had found her true vocation – teaching.

This was not the first encounter

she had had with children. When she was only eleven she had worked with even younger children at a Junior Gym Club. This she did till she left for college at eighteen. As I mentioned earlier she enrolled at Brookes University and did her one-year "Post-Grad" course at the Wheatley campus. Her first teaching post was at Sonning Common primary school where she was very happy and gathered a lot of useful experience. She moved on to Abingdon and then Grove where she took on the responsibility of acting Head teacher. This gave her the encouragement to apply for the post at St Francis and now here she is!

Gillian met Henry, an IT consultant, in Oxford in 2008 and three years later they were married at the Ashmolean Museum (a newly licenced venue for weddings). However earlier there had been an incredibly romantic proposal. Henry is a keen sub-aqua and scuba diver. When he met Gillian he passed on his enthusiasm to her and together they planned the ultimate holiday for divers – The Great Barrier Reef off the east coast of Australia. On one never-to-be-forgotten dive Henry persuaded Gillian to kneel on the seabed in front of him. She thought he was going to show her some lovely coral or a special sea anemone. Instead he produced an under-water pad and marker and wrote "Will you marry me?" How could she refuse?!

Their home is out at Wheatley very near the site where Gillian studied and they are now a family. Baby Pheobe is just one year old and, of course, a special child. Gillian relishes the challenge of dealing with a high-pressure job balancing this alongside home and family life. She and Henry also have their hobbies. He, of course, is still enjoying his sub-aqua diving whilst she has an evening a week playing netball. They also value the wider family get-togethers which are organised for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas or just for fun. With countless friends and family to keep in touch with and keeping a happy, busy school on track it is no wonder that meeting Gillian is a bit like encountering a well-oiled spring!

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How would you describe yourself as a small child?

A very happy child. I was quite shy when in a big group of people. I used to skip everywhere when I was happy. (Nowadays I can't skip when I get excited but I can skip inside).

Have you any memorable childhood stories to tell?

All my best memories from childhood are shared with my sister, Lyndsey. Whether making up productions, dressing up, camping in the back garden, also the fun of family holidays. I can't pick out one in particular.

Has there been anyone who has been a strong influence in your life?

My parents and both my grandmothers for the role models they gave me. My nan kept the family together and we still meet regularly now. Sue Tyldesley and Pip Marples, both teachers and mentors at Sonning Common. They treated me with respect as a new, young teacher.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

Yes, my faith is part of my journey. My parents, very early on, wanted my sister and me to learn about an open-minded attitude towards values and faith. I enjoy reading about shared values in other faiths.

Do you have a treasured possession?

I have a teddy bear from my childhood. He has no fur, one eye and a patch on his chest.

What is your opinion of present-day society?

I am an optimist. I think it is exciting that there is a lot of potential out there because I have the privilege of working with children from day to day. My hope would be that we can focus on shared values and that we need to look ahead realistically especially on environmental issues. Last year's Olympics gave me great hope for the future. People were so proud of how we all came together from all over the world.

Which period of your adult life has given you the most satisfaction?

This last year, especially becoming a mum.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

After I met Henry I started sub-aqua diving, netball, sky diving (I have done 50 sky-dives), learning about life through real experiences. I read about other cultures, early history and the odd thriller.

What plans do you have for the future?

Keep on having new experiences, meeting new people and enjoying life – anything that presents new opportunities.

NB On the Great Barrier Reef not only did Gillian receive that amazing proposal but she also encountered her first shark.

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## WOMEN'S GROUP

On the 5th June it was our Second Anniversary so we decided to have a 'Bring and Share' Meal. Everyone brought some yummy food from lovely salad to pies, and some gorgeous puddings including a cake made for us especially from Vicky.

On the 19th June we had a very nice lady coming from the Body Shop to teach us how to do a hand massage as well as an opportunity to buy some of the products.

We also have three other evenings on the July 3rd, 17th and 31st, but details are to be confirmed.

We will be having a break during August, and will be back on the 11th September when we will be participating in the 'MacMillan's World's Biggest Coffee Day' so please pop along and bring a cake then sit and relax over coffee. We are hoping for a speaker to come and talk to us about where the money goes that everyone raises.

Vicky Hall



## LOCAL NEWS

Sainsbury's will open its store in the Templar Retail Park on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Amateur archaeologists who have volunteered in the three-year-long East Oxford Archaeology Project have unearthed new information about Oxford's history by digging up people's back gardens. A recent discovery was that medieval Temple Cowley is bigger than previously thought. The results will be published in a book of photographs, maps and diagrams to tell the story of both east Oxford and the project itself. More information available on <https://www.archeox.net/>

The development planned for the old Cowley Community Centre in Barns Road has now been agreed. It will consist of 40 apartments, the relocation of a furniture recycling store operated by the charity Emmaus with a highly visible shop front on Barns Road, and Community rooms for the area on the ground floor.

# CHRISTIAN AID 2013

Parish Christian Aid total to date:

January: Quiz £105

March: Abseil £300

April: Souper Soup £210

April: Live under the line £280

May: Christian Aid Week: £950

£1,845 plus quite a bit of Gift Aid



That's looking good and we only have £155 to raise in order to reach our £2000 target – that seems possible, with one more event between now and December 31!

Our Christian Aid Week total was down on 2012 but we collected from 10 fewer streets than last year and envelopes sent to all the families in our Parish Schools brought a very disappointing result. We know it would be much easier to negotiate a bucket collection at Templars' Square or join Temple Cowley URC when they go busking at Oxford Station – but neither gives us a chance to demonstrate our Christian commitment to Cowley in quite the same way.

Thank you again to the 11 collectors – and all who have donated to Christian Aid.

Lesley Williams

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## BURGH CASTLE—A SURPRISE IN STORE

Whilst on holiday in Norfolk a few years back we came across a sign to Burgh Castle, which attracted our interest. After travelling some 3 or 4 miles off the main road, we finally reached a car park with information about the place,, and further instructions on how to reach it, on foot.

After a further walk along a footpath and across two large fields, we finally were faced with this ancient monument which took our breath away. For it was not a castle in the usual sense of the word, but a historic Roman Fort, with walls still up high and turrets in place. Dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD, it has withstood wind and weather for over 2000 years. There it stood in the morning sunshine, a tribute to the strength of a mixture of stone and flint and mortar to withstand all that nature could fling at it. The Romans were indeed fine builders, for this must be one of the oldest

monuments in all of East Anglia. We learned from sign boards that it had been the headquarters of a small cavalry regiment placed there to protect the area from the Saxon invaders who were continually plaguing our shores. When it was first built the sea would have come up close to its walls enabling supplies and reinforcements to be unloaded by boat very easily.

Now, owing to silting up, the sea has receded to Yarmouth several miles away. But the river Yare still winds slowly at the foot of the hillock on its way through the Broads. A couple of windmills are seen in the distance, the wind blows through the reed beds and all looks quiet and peaceful. It is hard to believe that this was once a hive of military activity so many years ago. History still has the ability to surprise us at times.

John Shreeve

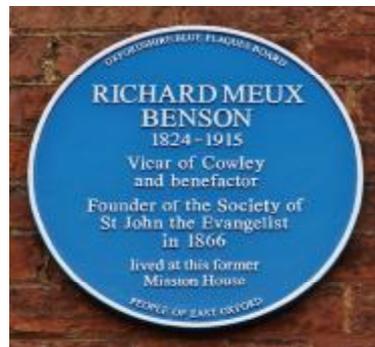
# Blue Plaques

When the weather is nice and you feel like a walk, why not go and see the three blue plaques which have been put up over the last few months to celebrate well-known Cowley people:

Ronnie Barker (1929 – 2005), actor and comedian  
23 Church Cowley Road

Father Richard Meux Benson (1824 – 1915),  
Vicar of Cowley and Benefactor  
Former Mission House, 16 Marston Street

Maureen Gardner (1928 – 1974), athlete, ballet teacher  
17 Maidcroft Road



More information is available on [www.oxfordshireblueplaques.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshireblueplaques.org.uk)

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**Two elderly ladies sitting on a park bench were discussing their favourite subject – medical matters.**

**“The doctor tells me I need another operation to sort out my old problem” said the first, “but I cannot afford to go private and there is an NHS waiting time of nearly twelve months”.**

**“Never mind, dear” said her friend, “we will just have to fill the time talking about our past operations instead.”**

I've learned:

That anticipation is often better than the real thing.

That most things I worry about never happen.

That it's hard to argue with someone who is always right.

That you can get by on charm for about 15 mins, after that you'd better know something.

I've learned:

That at least once in her life a woman makes a fool of herself over a man.

That marrying for money is the hardest way of getting it.

That a good nature is better than good looks any day.

That you should never be too busy to say please and thanks.

I've learned:

That you need to let your children be children at their pace not yours.

That couples without children always know how to bring up yours.

That good advice is hard to give but even harder to follow.

That my children's birthdays make me feel older than my own.

I've learned:

That you shouldn't go to bed with an argument unsolved.

That you can do something in a second and get a heartache for life.

That a person is only as good at his or her word.

That it is easier to stay out of trouble than to get out of trouble.

I've learned:

That I shouldn't go grocery shopping when I'm hungry

That eating chocolate won't solve your problems but it won't hurt either.

That a slice of bread and butter always falls butter side down.

That I can't tell the difference between a £5 or a £10 bottle of wine.

I've learned:

That my mother is always happy to see me.

That I wish she hadn't let me give up piano lessons.

That whatever bank queue you get in the others move faster.

That chewing gum dropped by someone in the last 48hours will always find my shoe.

I've learned:

That when travelling abroad always carry English Loo paper.

That you never really know your friends until you go on holiday with them.

That if you've waited till retirement to enjoy yourself, you've waited too long.

That my petrol is always low when I am in a hurry to get somewhere.

I've learned:

That when I have a pain, I don't have to be a pain.

That the dashing young knight on his snow white steed who was going to gallop into my life and carry me off apparently got lost in the forest!

Pat Sansom

# St James Junior Church

It's Sunday morning, 10am. The first hymn plays out and the children of St James Church can be seen gathering excitedly together before heading off to the Church Centre for their own special set of activities. Parishioners may be wondering "What do the children of St James actually do in Junior Church?"

Well! After setting up at the Church Centre hall, the first part of the session involves the children gathering around on the carpet, keenly ready to share their news of the past week of birthday parties, school trips, holidays, special achievements as well as things that the children have found difficult too. This is always a special part of the session that is filled with joy and excitement. On an average Sunday we normally have around six to eight children, the ages of whom range from one to thirteen.

Next we begin with a short prayer time before introducing the bible story for the session. At the beginning of each term the junior church team plan what the curriculum will include. The topics of the sessions can vary greatly. Often we will focus on particular events of the Christian calendar and the children will learn about Christmas and Easter, and this year we learnt about Lent and the time that Jesus spent in the Wilderness. However sometimes the children learn about a particular set of stories, for example we recently journeyed through the Old Testament and learnt about key biblical figures, from Adam and Eve through to Joseph and his Technicolor dream coat!

Following this, the children are encouraged to take part in an activity, usually a craft activity, in which they can make something that helps them remember or represent what they have learnt. (Please take a look at the display board at the back of the church if you want to see more!) After washing gluey fingers and clearing away pens and pencils, the children gather together and the session is summarised and closed in prayer before heading back into the main service. The sessions usually last for 45 minutes and frequently the children will be invited to the front of the church to share what they have been learning with the rest of the church, which is a wonderful way of encouraging and valuing them.

We certainly have a group of children that are gifted in craft making! These talents are put to good use by contributing to the Christmas Tree Festival each year as well as the flower festival happening this year on the 14th July. The crafts that the children produce will be themed on a well-known hymn which will be incorporated into the flower display. (Come and visit the display if you want to find out which one!)

Every two weeks the junior church sessions are run separately for approximately 20 to 25 minutes as part of the Church @ the Centre services, which a number of additional children often attend as well.

It is so important to provide a space especially for the children in which they can learn, explore and experience the living God in a fun, meaningful and relevant way. One of the best aspects of the group is the special friendships that have built up between the children. It is a privilege watching them learn and grow together and explore the stories in the bible and the person of Jesus.

It is time now to consider what the future of St James junior church will involve and how it will continue to run. As has been mentioned in previous issues of The Chronicle, two of the three team members will be stepping down by the end of the summer. Therefore we desperately require new volunteers to help with this important ministry. Could this be you?

Specific prayer points:

Please pray that Junior Church will be a safe, fun and loving environment in which each child will be supported in developing their relationship with God.

There is quite a large age gap within the group of children which poses a challenge to cater for individual needs. Please pray that the team will be able to create activities that are relevant and meaningful for each child.

Please pray for guidance about the future of Junior Church. We desperately require a new team of people to run the sessions each week, so we pray that God would provide the right people.

Kim Hughes

## Mothers' Union News

On 6<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 pm in the Church Centre we are holding one of our popular Poetry, Wine and Cheese Evenings. This is open to everyone who enjoys poetry, wine and cheese. As a branch we are raising funds for the Mothers' Union "Wheels Appeal" fund so any profit from the evening will be sent to that. "Wheels Appeal" is a scheme to support Mothers' Union members, mainly in Africa, who go out to remote areas to help families with health and other problems. These ladies often have to travel over rough terrain and need vehicles to cope with it. Some of the ladies simply need a bicycle, any kind of wheels to do their work. Our poetry evening, as usual, costs £5 if you bring a poem to read and £6 if you just want to listen. A super supper will, of course, be provided.

June's branch meeting was very well attended. After our short act of worship and business matters members were able to steep themselves in nostalgia. Much of the Royal memorabilia on display involved early copies of newspapers and magazines so alongside the memories of royal occasions were advertisements and news from decades ago. "What happened to Goray skirts?", "I remember using OMO washing powder" and "Look at the price of The Oxford Mail!" were some of the comments going around.

July is always the meeting when we have a tea-party to "break up" for the summer. This month alongside our bring and share tea we are invited to bring "summery" readings to try and make summer happen. Members also voted to have a sing-song of folk songs and other popular tunes.

As readers can see we are a lively bunch and always enjoy welcoming visitors to our meetings – always held on the third Monday of the month in the Church Centre at 2.30 pm.

## LUXURY

A fancy yacht all sleek and shiny  
Moored in the marina at Cannes  
A party at Buckingham Palace  
With a chance to shake the Queen's hand  
Tea at The Ritz with champagne  
A trip on the Orient Express  
Some Jimmy Choo shoes, Chanel perfume,  
A Victoria Beckham-type dress.  
A box at the opera, a Centre Court seat  
A ride in a smart limousine  
At Ascot the Royal Enclosure,  
All part of the luxury scene.  
And yet when it comes to perfection  
I'm afraid that it has to be said  
My ideal is a soft, comfy pillow  
And fresh sheets when I jump into bed.

Rosanne Butler

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## RECIPES

A delicious marinade for your chicken at a summer barbecue  
(sufficient for ten pieces of chicken)

- 1 bottle of barbecue sauce
- 1 glass of Red Wine

Mix all together and submerge the chicken pieces in the mixture. Leave for 2-3 hours or longer, and then barbecue.



Here is a lovely dessert for summer – American pancakes

For the batter:

- 5oz flour
- 1 tablespoon caster sugar
- 3 egg yolks
- 5 tablespoons melted butter
- 4fl.oz milk
- 4fl.oz cold water
- 3 tablespoons cherry flavoured liqueur
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Sift flour and sugar in mixing bowl. Make a well in the middle and add egg yolks and melted butter. Fold all together with a wooden spoon.

Gradually add milk and water until you have a smooth batter. Add the liqueur and whisk hard until any lumps have gone. Cover bowl and leave in cool place for 2 hours.

Grease a heavy frying pan with a small drop of oil and place over heat till very hot.

Using a jug to control amount, pour enough batter to cover a saucer, tilt pan to make a nice even pancake.

Turn over with an egg slice.

Continue this process till you have used all the batter.

Place the pancakes in a neat pile, interleaved with non-stick baking paper.

Reserve until you have made the compote.

For the compote:

- 10fl. oz water
- 6oz sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 4 ripe pears, peeled, cored and cut into quarters
- Small punnet of raspberries
- Rind of a Lemon

In a large heavy saucepan bring the water, sugar and essence to the boil stirring to dissolve the sugar. Add the fruit and lemon rind. Simmer for 10 to 15 minutes. Allow to cool for 30 minutes, remove lemon rind. Strain the fruit from the syrup and mash it down to a pulp. Reheat syrup till it reduces and pour over fruit.

To assemble the dessert place one small pancake on a plate, top with a good spoonful of compote and top with a second pancake. Sprinkle with caster sugar and finish with a scoop of vanilla ice-cream. Delicious!

# BOOK OF THE MONTH

THE PRIDE OF POLLY PERKINS BY JOAN JONKER

I have just finished reading the above mentioned book which I borrowed from the Church library.

To me it was a very sad story about a poor family who could not always afford to pay the rent and had very little food. Unfortunately father had to give up work at an early age and eventually went into hospital with consumption and his children were unable to visit him. He was away from home for a very long time.

Mother got a cleaning job for a man who was

definitely not short of money and he became a great friend of the family household.

Polly at an early age began selling flowers on a Saturday morning at the local market to help mother with family expenses. It was here she became very friendly with another wealthy family and it became like a second home.

It did not end up as I thought but had a very gripping story line, well worth reading.

Joy Harbison



## 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:*

*St James Old School, Beauchamp Lane*

**A vicar and a taxi-driver both reached the gates of heaven at the same time. St Peter welcomed the taxi-driver with a golden robe and a gilded staff. Then it was the vicar's turn. He was given a thin cotton robe and a rough wooden staff.**

**“Hang on” cried the vicar, “how come he gets the golden robe and staff and I get treated like this?”**

**“Well” replied St Peter, “we like to reward good results. When you preached people went to sleep but when he drove people prayed!”**

# SAINT OF THE MONTH – St Christopher

Because St Christopher's saint day falls on the same day as the patronal festival of our Parish Church, 25<sup>th</sup> July, he is often ignored in our parish. However, one of our three church primary schools is dedicated to his name so he is a saint to be commemorated.

It is a little difficult to make a lot of him, though, as the Oxford Dictionary of Saints (an extremely well-researched reference book) is unable to pinpoint with any certainty when he actually lived. His name means Christ bearer and refers to the popular legend with which he is associated.

The story goes that he was a Canaanite who, possibly, lived in the third century. He was a huge and fearsome giant who chose in his early life to serve the devil. When he found out that even the devil was scared of Christ he thought that having Jesus as his master was a better option. Wanting to serve the Lord he consulted a hermit whose cell was situated near a river. At the best of times the river had a ford where travellers could cross but in the worst of times the river would flood causing much distress. The holy hermit suggested that Christopher (though I doubt that was his name at the time) should set up home by the river and when needed, carry people across the stream. This he did. One dark night when the river was in full flood a child arrived asking for a lift across (I am not sure about him being out alone so late!). Christopher lifted his little burden up on to his shoulders and began to wade through the deep water. The child became heavier and heavier but the

giant kept going, not knowing that he was carrying the Christ Child.

Once he had arrived on the other side The Child told the saint that he had carried the weight of the whole world on his shoulders. Jesus also told him to plant his staff in the ground. The next day it would bear flowers and dates as a sign of the truth of the message he had been given. Christopher is reputed to have travelled to the city of Lycia where he preached with spectacular success. He was imprisoned and persecuted for refusing to sacrifice to the gods. Two women who were sent to the prison to seduce him were converted to the Christian faith instead. After beatings and being shot at with arrows he was beheaded.

Christopher is the well-known patron saint of travellers. In the Middle Ages it was popularly believed that seeing an image of him carrying the Christ Child would make a person safe from death that day. Wall paintings in early churches would place him at eye-level as one entered the door. However, the St Christopher medallion is still popular today and he has become the patron saint specifically of motorists. An area of Paris, where Citroen cars are produced, has a church dedicated to him. When in 1969, the Roman church reduced his feast to "a mere local cult" there were sharp reactions from many countries. It would seem that the legend of the giant as the bearer of Christ is as popular as ever.

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extract from the Cowley Chronicle August 1961

Extracts from the Cowley Chronicle, Mid-May 1960

## COWLEY CHURCH SCHOOLS HAVE A VITAL ROLE

Demands on school accommodation in Cowley are still heavy and while St Christopher's, one of the two Church Schools, is scheduled as a permanent school, St James School, too will need to continue for many years to come.

For more than 20 years there has been inadequate provision for primary education in permanent school buildings in Cowley. The recent proposal for four temporary classrooms in Horspath Road would certainly improve the situation, though it is not yet certain whether the Ministry of Education will approve this plan. The Managers of Cowley Church Schools recently recommended a plan for the provision of a hall and three more classrooms in Temple Road but this will have to wait its turn for a grant out of the allowance for minor works in the education budget of the City.

St James Hall is used by St Christopher's Junior School for large gatherings, prize-giving, plays, etc. since there is no proper hall in the buildings at Temple Road. St James Hall has also been used for several classes ever since 1938. The Church provides the buildings, the Local Education Authority pays its share of running costs and maintenance, but strictly speaking pays no rent for the building. For many years St Francis Church has been used in a similar way by St Christopher's Infant School.

These buildings are not ideal for educational purposes, but they are a complete answer to those who think that the quality of the building determines the quality of the school. In terms of examinations, sporting prowess etc., the result at St James Hall are quite as good as in the rest of the school. The same is true at St Francis, but this does

not mean that schools should have to continue to make do.

It was the Church that took the lead during the past century in providing free education in Cowley, and precisely because it was first in the field, many of its buildings are now in great need of improvement. Under the terms of the 1944 Education Act, the Local Education Authority is now responsible for the planning of all new buildings, and for financing them, except in the case of grant-aided schools. It will be to the general advantage of children and teachers, parents and Church if more school buildings can be provided in the area. A temporary school in Horspath Road would help, but this must not be allowed to obscure the need for permanent buildings in Temple Road.

## THEIR MOST DISTINGUISHED OLD BOY IS LORD NUFFIELD



Many older people in Cowley remember the days when the buildings now used by the Cowley St James Church of England School housed the Temple Cowley Boys' School. According to log books still preserved there, the Boys' School opened in October 1908, with a headmaster and two assistants. In the gable of the oldest building a stone carved with the date 1834 shows that even this was not the first church school in the premises

and it was here, more than 60 years ago, that the school's most distinguished former pupil William Morris, now Lord Nuffield, received his education.

Many people seem to be under the impression that the school's long history is about to end. But Mr C W Alexander, the headmaster, made it clear to me that St James School is not in imminent danger of closing down. As long as there are children to go there, the school will continue. Mr Alexander came to the school last September after being employed by Berkshire Education Committee as a peripatetic headmaster, taking charge of many different schools for short periods in the absence of their own heads. One of the teachers, Miss Bullock, has been at the school since 1933. Miss Dyer, who was well-known in Cowley and who died so suddenly last term, had also been at the school 15 years and the headmaster asked me to pass on the thanks of her relations for the flowers sent by pupils, parents and friends to her funeral.

St James School has 116 pupils split between four teachers and four classrooms, and next September there are hopes of using the hut at the top of Beauchamp Lane too.

In fundamental subjects the teaching methods used tend to be the well-tryed, formal ones, "old-fashioned" perhaps, but producing above average results, and in other respects the school is certainly not old fashioned. Each year many of the older children go to camp at Wytham for a week in the summer term, with all the fun of outdoor activities and cooking.

As it is a controlled church school, full church teaching is given to all children whose parents agree and the church provides two of the six foundation managers. The aim of the teachers at St James School is to educate the whole child, and it is good to know that they will continue to do this for a long time to come.

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## A MOTHER'S DICTIONARY

**Bottle Feeding:** An opportunity for Daddy to get up at 2 am too.

**Defence:** What you'd better have around the yard if you're going to let the children play outside.

**Drooling:** How teething babies wash their chins.

**Dumbwaiter:** One who asks if the kids would care to order dessert.

**Family Planning:** The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you on the edge of financial disaster.

**Feedback:** The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

**Full Name:** What you call your child when you're mad at him.

**Grandparents:** The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

**Hearsay:** What toddlers do when anyone mutters a dirty word.

**Impregnable:** A woman whose memory of labour is still vivid,

**Independent:** How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

**Look Out:** What it's too late for your child to do by the time you scream it.

More to come in future issues!

"ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF" – see [www.enoughfoodif.org/](http://www.enoughfoodif.org/)



Members of Film @ The Centre were given an interesting extra opportunity on Friday 10 May : to make, with the help of Miranda St John Nicolle of Christian Concern for One World, a few dozen windmill 'flowers' for the IF campaign in London on Saturday 8 June and then pose outside the Centre for a photo which was destined for the front page of the June edition of The Door. So there we are, smiling broadly, holding the IF banner and waving our 'flowers', most of which were then taken to London and 'planted' in Hyde Park. The photo was also posted on Facebook by the Diocese of Oxford!

The IF event was well covered by the media and hopefully had some impact on the guarded success of the Summit for Hunger, held by David Cameron in London and the G8 meeting in Northern Ireland. Pray that the decisions and promises made are meaningful and followed through.

Lesley Williams

A comment from Una Dean – apologies, Una, this should have been included last month:

We have heard a lot about living under the line. I want to tell you about it happening here not so long ago. When my parents were married in 1931 my father earned £4 a week. My mother was the manager, my father was not sensible with money. Out of that £4 my mother had to feed both of them, pay rates, electricity, gas for the cooker, coal for heating, mortgage, health insurance (this was before the NHS), plus any other expenses that cropped up. The following year there was my brother to be included.

I remember her saying that she would buy one rasher of bacon, one egg, and yesterday's bread. My father had egg and bacon and fried bread for breakfast and my mother had a slice of fried bread.

## **Shaun Guard**

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# Congratulations to the Coronation Celebration Team

What a weekend we had on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. The team, headed by Rosanne Butler, worked for months to organise this event for all to enjoy; and enjoy it we did with good old English summer weather – sunny and warm.

Saturday's celebrations started with a children's party, whilst some watched a film of the actual Coronation. We were then entertained by the Headington Quarry Morris Dancers. The weather was just right for a barbeque, which was prepared by the Doug Tredwell, Nico Nachescue, David Thornton and the Rector (but again with lots and lots of help from others).

The Sunday concert was a sell out and enjoyed by all. St James Church was filled with the sound made by the City of Oxford Silver Band, the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir, the Oxford Caledonian Pipes and Drums and Rich McMahan, an Irish folk

singer – plus the singing of the audience. All three big groups joined together for the finale – which almost raised the roof of our lovely old church – and the audience departed with lots of smiles and good cheer.

The St James flower arrangers had done us proud. Wonderful flower arrangements filled the church – all colour co-ordinated with the national colours of the flags hanging around the church. In particular, there was a vase at the north door with such a lovely arrangement that a photograph was taken and used to close the file of images of the weekend's events – yes, we have photographs.

Well done Rosanne for hosting the weekend, and for all your team (I dare not name anyone for fear of missing someone out) for all the help and support you willingly gave.

Sally Hemsworth

## COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our meetings are held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at St James Church Centre at 2 pm.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> we had our Garden Party organised by the Committee – with eats, games and Bring and Buy.

Quite a few of our more energetic members still manage to go on their walks. They meet under the clock at Carfax around 10.30am usually on the Wednesday following our meetings.

Our speaker on July 15<sup>th</sup> is A C Eaton on The Rudolph Hess Cover-up.

We are always looking for new members. Come and join us and see what we do. You will be made very welcome.

Jean Chilton



# OPEN DOORS

On the second Saturday in September (the same day as the Ride and Stride campaign) many historic and interesting buildings in Oxford open their doors to visitors. We in Cowley are not to be left out so we are opening up our two lovely churches as part of the scheme. There will be booklets distributed all around the city throughout the summer with lots of information.

As this is the centenary year of the opening of the Morris car factory there will be a strong emphasis on our area. We have been asked to compile a

William Morris trail between St James and St Francis churches.

It would be extra special if both churches could provide coffee/tea/soft drinks and cake or biscuits for visitors. It is our traditional way of offering hospitality. Please could we ask for volunteers to do this? We cannot expect the Ride and Stride meeters and greeters to do this as they are busy signing forms for the walkers and bikers. Let's try to make Open Doors in Cowley a memorable experience for all who come to see us.



"Thanks for understanding, in lieu of our malfunctioned sound system"

## CHRISTMAS BOXES

Joyce Titchell is busy collecting items suitable for putting in the Christmas Boxes. Some of the items she would like are:

- Stationery – writing paper, pens, pencils
- Toothpaste/tooth brushes
- Flannels
- Little cuddly toys
- Tennis balls
- Any hair ornaments
- Hats, socks, gloves
- Novelties – dolls for girls/cars for boys
- Any games – drafts, cards, etc.

Are you able to help Joyce – she would very much appreciate this.

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# CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Rosanne Butler, Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the June edition:  
Wednesday 21 August 2013

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at [chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers.

# Churchyard Project

The team have made a good start this year despite the weather and hope with a few more sunny days we shall be able to complete the recording of all the stones. We were pleased the grass has been cut down in most of the places we needed and Erma is struggling valiantly with removing ivy as necessary.

Disposing of it is a bit of a problem but she is coping very well. Some of the stones we have uncovered are beautiful and very interesting, well worth a look.

Oxfordshire Family History Society will be collating all our work and will produce a CD by the end of this year. It will cover all the memorial inscriptions both in the church and the churchyard. A plan of which will also be included.

Sheila Tree

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## FLOWER FESTIVAL – “SONGS OF PRAISE”

Don't forget the Flower Festival at St James Church on July 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>.

The church will be open on:

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July: 10.30 am – 7 pm

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July: 2.00 - 6 pm, followed by a Service of Praise at 6.30 pm.

Please support us by coming along to view the arrangements and telling your families, friends and neighbours. This is an opportunity to share our Parish C with the community and (hopefully) to raise some money for Parish Funds. We are making a modest entrance charge of £1 for adults – children free.

St James Flower Arrangers



*KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves*

### Dance Based Keep Fit Class with Barbara

St Francis of Assisi Church  
Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford OX3 7JP  
Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.45 am

Improve your energy levels, muscle tone and flexibility  
Come and enjoy the friendly, fun atmosphere

This class most suited to active 50+  
Please bring a mat/towel **First class ½ price**

**Dance Based Fitness Class, Lean Machine, Cowley –  
Tuesdays 7.30-8.45pm**

For further details of both classes phone Barbara  
07752626642  
KFA Fitness through movement, dance and exercise  
[www.keepfit.org.uk](http://www.keepfit.org.uk)

**The fattest Knight  
at King Arthur's  
Round Table was  
Sir Cumference.  
He acquired his  
size from too  
much Pi.**

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Sung Eucharist
Every 2nd & 4th Sunday	Church at the Centre
Every third Sunday	Sunday Lunch

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am	Parish Eucharist
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## MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St James
	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St Francis
	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St James
	7.30pm (alt wks)	Women's Group—St James
Thursday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James
Saturday	10.00am-12pm	Coffee Morning, St Francis (2nd Saturday)

## HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Skye Denno	1st Monday of month, 7.30pm at Skye's home
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve/ Skye Denno)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Tony Beetham	Alternate Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am

The Parish Office in St James Church  
Centre is open:

Tuesday, 2—5pm  
Wednesday, 10—1pm  
Friday, 9—2pm

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: [office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)  
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378  
Website: [www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

### Team Rector:

Revd Howard Thornton  
Howard has Friday as his day off

### Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno  
Tel: 01865 434160 Mobile: 07720 768684  
Email: [skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)  
Skye has Friday as her day off.

### Associate Priest

Revd Richard Chand  
01865 701948  
Email: [richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

### Non-stipendiary Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow  
01865 461953  
Email: [markoxbrow@aol.com](mailto:markoxbrow@aol.com)

Revd Amanda Bloor  
Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Gordon Hickson  
Tel: 07713 688079

Revd Tony Beetham  
Tel: 01865 770923  
Email: [tonybeetham1@supanet.com](mailto:tonybeetham1@supanet.com)

### 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 Sansom Tel: 778516  
St Francis Church/St James Church:  
through Parish Office

### Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Rosanne Butler Tel: 453257  
Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens,  
May Morgan  
Articles to be emailed to:  
[chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)