

Skye writes...

My daughter Sofia recently learnt a new game at school. In this game one person is nominated as detective. They leave the room whilst the others secretly select any object for the detective to identify. When the detective returns, he or she is asked to ascertain the item chosen by the group. An assistant points to objects, one at a time, asking, 'Is it this?' The detective has to answer 'Yes' or 'No' on each occasion. The trick is, both the detective and his assistant are privy to a secret means of communication whereby the assistant indicates the correct item to the detective. The aim of the game is to work out how the secret information is conveyed.

Sofia puzzled over this game for days. She played it at school and came home asking for the answer to the problem. We played it at home, having refused to reveal the solution, but all to no avail. She couldn't figure it out. Eventually, one day, she returned home from school excited and eager to share the news, 'I've worked it out; I've worked it out!' It was a 'eureka!' moment. She could now look back over all the times she'd played the game and say to herself, 'Now I understand. It all makes sense.'

Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus; the most significant moment in the history of mankind. The raising to life of this roving rabbi, whose ministry seemed

to have been brought to an unceremonious end by his brutal crucifixion, is the 'eureka!' moment that makes sense of all that came before it and all that is to come. Not that everybody gets it straight away. Not even the people who were closest to Jesus could claim to have got it straight away.

We have just spent the last six weeks thinking about the Passion of Jesus, about his sacrifice and the pain that he suffered. We have given up our favourite foods, taken up challenges or made greater commitments to our spiritual disciplines, all so that we can share in Jesus' suffering, or understand, to some small degree, his experience. We can get caught up in the atmosphere of grief and mourning that surrounds Holy Week, and sometimes we can forget that we already know the end of the story. We know that Jesus was raised from the dead. All Jesus' first century followers had to go on were a couple of cryptic clues about temples and bodies and rebuilding.

When did the 'eureka!' moment first happen? When did Jesus' disciples realise that Easter day made sense of everything else that had come before it. Death and pain and suffering had been defeated. The gruelling grind of the Passion of Jesus made sense, because it preceded the resurrection; the suffering they had experienced

Chronicle

April 2014

made sense, because death had been beaten. Did Mary Magdalen understand the full significance of Jesus' resurrection when she saw him in the garden? Did Thomas really appreciate what it meant when he felt the wounds in Jesus' hands and side? We don't know. We do know, though, that the disciples on the road to Emmaus got a full explanation from Jesus himself. And what about us? When did we realise that Easter day makes sense of everything else, both before and since?

In our Lenten disciplines we have tried to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and experience his pain.

Now, in this season of Easter, we can rejoice with him and live in him, knowing that death is at an end. In fact, two thousand years ago (give or take), Jesus gave us the promise of eternal life by conquering the grave. When we really understand that, let's be like children. Let's run to the people we know and love and let's tell them all about it: 'I've worked it out! Now it all makes sense!'

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing to Celebrate Easter, may you feel the love of Christ and God's blessings.

Revd Skye

3rd Cowley Brownies

On Saturday 22nd February I and two other Brownies from my group went with our Brown Owl, Hilary, to London for the day. We were going to celebrate World Thinking Day and Brownies 100th anniversary at Alexandra Palace. We went on a coach with other Brownies from Oxford.

There were lots of other Brownies and Rainbows there. Over two days almost 8,000 members went. We did all sorts of fun activities during the day. We did human table football, went on a bouncy castle, went on an inflatable slide and an inflatable assault course, played crazy golf, made igloos out of marshmallows, did henna painting and had candy floss. There was zorbing there but the queue was very long so we didn't go on it

We had a packed lunch during the day.

My favourite activity was making marshmallow igloos they were really tasty and we made icing paste to stick it together I forgot to leave a space for the door

Janine Higham aged 8.

4th Cowley Brownies

The 4th Cowley Brownies have successfully completed their Toymaker badge this term. They made finger puppets and put on shows, practiced their sewing by making stuffed glove monsters, and made jigsaw puzzles. The jigsaw puzzles were also invitations to their friends to join us for a 'Bring a Friend' night, which had a Valentine's theme and aimed to encourage more girls to join our pack.

We celebrated World Thinking Day in February, thinking about Brownies all around the world on the anniversary of the birth of Lord and Lady Baden Powell.

Another week was spent focusing on Fair Trade week, and the Brownies enjoyed eating a lot of fair-trade chocolate!

Helen Bray

Editor's Letter

Red books or green? Many of you will appreciate the running joke we have with Howard at St James over our favourite hymns in "the green books". We do love many of the new hymns included in the red books, as I know do the St Francis congregation. However, there are some lovely old hymns which get neglected because they are only found in the green books. Well this evening (6 April) at 5 pm, as part of a weekend of celebrations for Brian Tidy's 60 years of faithful organ playing, it will be green books only. Brian is going to be at his, oh, so familiar seat in the parish church to head "Songs of Praise" from the green book. I have seen the list he has chosen and, I can promise you, you will love them. Do come and sing!

Before that, of course, at lunchtime there is our Annual Parochial Church Council meeting. It sounds rather formal and dull but, I promise you, it never is. Of course important business has to be done but Howard always manages to keep it light-hearted and we usually come away from these meetings with a smile – see you there?

News which will please lots of you is that Sally is busy putting together the long-promised recipe book from those we have published for several years in The Chronicle. If, like me, you forget to keep them (perhaps because you pass your copy on to a friend) and regret losing what sounds like a good dish to try, you will snap up a copy. You might like to buy one for a friend too. Watch out for "The Chronicle Good Food Cook Book" (goodness, what a lot of double "o"s!).

While we are on the subject of recipes, one of our readers berated me (nicely) at church the other

day because the marmalade bread and butter pud failed to say at what temperature and for how long it should stay in the oven. So bake it at about 35/40 minutes at Gas Mark 4, 180 or 350. I hope you can add that to the bottom of the recipe.

Later on in this month's issue you will find a lovely article written by our youngest contributor about her latest Brownie activities. It all sounds great fun but can someone inform (ancient) me what on earth is "zorbing"? Obviously it is popular as you need to queue for it, what am I missing?

When I was teaching we always tried to enrich the quality of school life by giving the children something good to look forward to – a drama production, sports day, an interesting visitor, a school trip for instance. Well I still think that anticipating something nice adds to our quality of life and, wow, don't we do that in our parish! Each week we have social gatherings for children, parents, lunchers (is that a word? - not according to spell check!), bingo players as well as our services and home groups. Add to this special days like family fun days, our plant sale, the forthcoming parish outing and you will see what I mean. And as I write there is our celebration of Brian, our organist's 60 years which I am sure will be super. What else have we got planned for the summer?

Of course we are soon going to celebrate the greatest day of all in our Church's calendar – Easter Day. So all the Chronicle Team would just like to wish you all a really joyous Easter.

God bless

Rosanne

Book of the Month

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE
BY ROSEMARY SUTCLIFFE

As we look around at some of those people in the Middle East struggling to get better conditions and rights for themselves, we forget that we in this country went through that stage many years ago. Our English Civil War was a protracted and bitter affair in which many lives were lost and towns and villages devastated.

Rosemary Sutcliffe manages to give us a very honest and sensitive portrayal of those difficult times. Although she understands the strategy and the battles, she does not dwell on them too much. Her main concerns are the people who

get caught up in this struggle through no fault of their own, the families and communities. She paints a fine profile of Thomas Fairfax (the man on the white horse). As one of the main leaders of the Parliamentarians he has tremendous responsibilities, and suffers from ill health throughout. She is very concerned with his relationship with his wife and family and those who serve under him.

If you want to understand how the ordinary people felt about these times, this is the book for you, and I have no hesitation about drawing your attention to it.

John Shreeve

5th Cowley Guides

At the beginning of February Guides from the 5th Cowley and 1st Blackbird Leys went on a weekend away to Jubilee House.

The weekend had a Farm theme with activities based on farms and farm animals. During the weekend the Guides completed two different challenges called the Baa Challenge and the Moo Challenge.

The Guides started off the weekend on Friday by making pom-pom sheep and started making papier-mâché cows to make into piñatas.

On Saturday (after a late night where most of the Guides had stayed awake talking!) the weather was sunny although windy and the girls managed to get outside and play a matching pairs game and have a go on the assault course. After all the rain in the last few months we only lost one pair of wellies in the mud on the field. After lunch the girls played a game outside where they had to try and outwit the leaders and collect as many different hidden animal cards as they could in groups. As it was getting colder at this point the

girls came back inside after finishing the game and made hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows. After having showers the girls made ice cream and then set about making costumes for their patrols. On Saturday evening the Guides had a fashion parade where they had made costumes of their patrol names out of recycled materials, there was a Cow, Sheep, Goat and Duck. This was followed by an (early) midnight feast.

On Sunday the girls finished the weekend with a game of pin the tail on the cow, trying to break their piñatas in their patrols and a cow drive (beetle drive but in cow shape).

The whole weekend was great fun and all the Guides who went managed to gain their Guide Holiday badge by taking part in all the activities and duties, this is quite an achievement as all but one of the Guides who attended the weekend had never been on a Guide holiday before.

Cynthia Retter

RECIPES

We have tried to find a lovely recipe using lamb which is the traditional meat for Easter Sunday. We think we have found it. Do give it a try.



Lamb Isabella

Mix 2 oz flour, 1 ½ oz mild curry powder, a teaspoon of fresh ground black pepper

Cut the meat from a 2lb leg of lamb into 1 ½ inch cubes

2 oz butter

A thinly sliced onion

1 clove of garlic, crushed

5 fluid oz beef stock

3 tablespoons sweet chutney

1 tablespoon lemon juice

Put the seasoned flour on a shallow plate and roll the meat cubes in it. Melt the butter in a large frying pan. When it stops foaming fry the onion and garlic for about 7 minutes or until the onion is soft but not brown. Stir occasionally. Add the meat and cook for about 5 minutes until the meat is evenly browned.

Pour in the stock, add dried fruit, chutney and lemon juice. Stir well till whole mixture is absorbed.

Bring the liquid to the boil. Reduce the heat and cover the pan. Simmer gently stirring occasionally for 1 ½ hours until meat is completely tender.

Serve on a bed of rice with green vegetables or crisp green salad.

A lightly chilled white wine would go well with this!

St James Café

Thank you again for everyone's support with the café, but we still need everyone's help and support. Tell everyone you know that there is now a cafe on the last Saturday of each month 10am -1pm.

If you can display a poster or know of a good place to display a poster then please ask me or May Morgan and we can get one or a couple of posters to you.

The dates for the next few months are:

29th March

31st May

26th April

28th June

Vicky Hall



Where ?

The Mish, 57F St Clement's St, Oxford,
OX4 1AG
(access off Boulter St)

Daytimes

Thursdays 24 April, 1 & 8 May, 2014
9.30 - 11.30am

Or Evenings

Mondays 23 & 30 June, 7 July 2014
7.30 - 9.30pm

Did you know that in just 3 sessions you can learn how to be in control of your money?

You are invited to join us on a short course, free of charge, to learn how to prepare a budget and organise your finances.

Please note: to fully benefit from the course it is essential to attend all 3 sessions and to set aside time for homework.

Register by 21 April (daytimes) 20 June (eves) or -

- go to - www.capmoneycourse.org or
- e-mail - jeCAPMoney@gmail.com or
- if no internet contact St Clement's Parish Office
tel 01865 246674; parish.office@stclements.org.uk

CAP Money is a Christians Against Poverty course

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.30pm.

St James Church Centre

BUT NEXT MEETING MONDAY, 28th APRIL 2014
– St George's Day Lunch

Women's Group

1st and 3rd Monday of the Month

from 7.30 – 9 pm

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of month
from 2 – 4.30 pm

St James Church Centre

St James Café at Cowley Parish Church Centre
10am—1pm

The last Saturday of each month

Next meeting, 26 April 2014

Film Club

Friday, 11 April 2014, commencing at 6.30 pm
with coffee and cake

"High Society"

St James Church Centre

Cowley Local History Society

Tuesday, 15 April 2014, at 8 pm

Talk: The Wantage Tramway

An Illustrated talk by Lawrence Waters

United Reform Church, Temple Road

St Francis Church Committee Annual Meeting

Sunday, 27 April 2014, commencing at 12 noon

St Francis Church

St James Church Committee Annual Meeting

Tuesday, 29 April 2014,

commencing at 7.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 4 May 2014, commencing at 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

Christian Aid Week

11th – 17th May 2014

Plant Sale

Saturday, 17 May 2014

St James Church Centre

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2014

First planning meeting

Monday, 2nd June 2014, 10am in the Ranklin
Room.

*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 3rd 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.

**A notice outside a church
advertising two Autumn
Talks**

**First Sunday:
Jesus walks on the water
Second Sunday:
Searching for Jesus**

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Although we have “lost” a couple of our members who have moved out of the area we are still quite a flourishing branch. We shall be registering 17 members this year which, in comparison with other branches in the Oxford diocese, is a good working membership.

Our March meeting took the form of a quiet afternoon of reflection which is a tradition we keep annually for Lent. Mark Oxbrow led the proceedings this year. He focused on the song of Zacharias from St Luke’s gospel. Needless to say it was much enjoyed, giving us much thought to take into our prayers.

It was agreed to donate £55 to the “Make a Mother’s Day” scheme, one close to our hearts, which helps mothers across the world to learn to read, resource centres of support where family life has broken down or combat domestic abuse.

Since our branch leader’s correspondence with Andrew Smith, MP, voicing our concern over the abuse of women

and girls in our society we have received a second letter from Westminster. This time from the Minister for Crime Prevention, Norman Baker. Mr Smith passed

on our concerns and they have now been recognised at a higher level. We have been assured that Parliament is currently addressing the problem.

Our April meeting will take the form of our St George’s Day celebrations, namely a lunch to which we invite friends. It was agreed to ask for a donation of £3 to offset costs. Members are all invited to bring a guest. The date of the St George’s Day Lunch is Monday, April 28th at 12.30 pm in the Church Centre.

**Sign outside a
church in Kent:
COME EARLY AND
GET A BACK SEAT**

Shaun Guard **TV AERIAL SERVICES**

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Great Easter Hymns

When I survey the Wondrous Cross

By Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)

This has long been acknowledged as one of the finest hymns ever written. It broke with the tradition of metrical psalms and introduced verses based on religious experience rather than pure doctrine. It was voted fourth in the BBC Songs of Praise poll.

Watts wrote 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' as a communion hymn and it first appeared in 1707 in his Hymns and Spiritual Songs. He based the theme on St Paul's Epistle to the Galatians – "God Forbid that I should glory – save in the cross of our Lord Jesus – by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the World."

Isaac Watts was born in Southampton, the son of an elder in the Congregational Church. Educated at the local grammar school, he early showed himself to be a formidable scholar. After training at one of the dissenting academics in 1702 he was appointed minister at Mark Lane Chapel in London. However, after 10 years his health broke down, and for the last 36 years of his life he lived as the house guest of Sir Thomas and Lady Abney.

In all he wrote nearly 700 hymns many of which are still in use today. His simple verses still ring true in our times, and we have no difficulty in understanding them. He strikes the right balance between our unworthiness and the tremendous sacrifice of Christ on the cross. He concludes with our need to make a response with the realisation that nothing we can offer is worthy enough.

His survey of the cross is stark and realistic (see verse 4) but it is also very moving and humbling.

John Shreeve

TO COMMEMORATE WORLD WAR ONE

We intend to pay tribute to those who served so gallantly in WW1 in our double issue in the summer but we need your help. So, dear readers, if you had family connections to any of the brave men and women who served especially if there is a story attached, or if you have memorabilia which you could describe, please may we hear from you? It does not matter how brief or simple your story is it will still provide

resonance from that important episode in the history of Great Britain.

Please pass on your stories to any one of The Chronicle team – Nicki, May, Sally or Rosanne by the end of May. Naturally we do not want to handle valuable family treasures, we just want your stories.

Film Club at the Centre

Film club in March saw its largest audience to date (we even needed to put out extra chairs).

Members and guests enjoyed the film "Made in Dagenham", a story based on a piece of social history recent enough to jerk most of our memories.

For our film in April we have chosen "High Society" which could hardly be a greater contrast. Several members suggested this delightful musical, so light hearted and romantic. It is full of lovely songs sung by Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Celeste Holm and Grace Kelly whose song with Bing, "True Love", was her only singing role on film.

We are continuing to make useful profits for parish funds thanks to members' donations and continue to flourish as a club. Forthcoming films over the summer include "Tea with Mussolini" with our own Maggie Smith, "A Man for all Seasons", our first historical film, "Shirley Valentine" and "Oklahoma!", a good mixed programme which will entertain and please most of our members.



SIGNIFICANT DATES IN APRIL

In Trafalgar Square in London the National Gallery was opened on 9th April 1838.

1924 saw the introduction of the crossword puzzle. The first book of crosswords was published in New York on 10th April that year.

April 14th in 1360 was known as "Black Monday". It was a day for the record books as far as the weather was concerned. One writer described it like this: "so full dark of mist and hail and so bitter cold that many men died on their horsebacks with the cold".

A powerful earthquake struck San Francisco on 18th April 1906. 1,000 people were killed by collapsing buildings and the fire storm which quickly followed the 'quake.

On 21st April 1926 in London a baby girl was born to the Duke and Duchess of York. She was named Elizabeth and is now our queen.

The newly built Empire Stadium at Wembley held its first sporting event on 28th April 1923. Bolton Wanderers played West Ham for the F.A. Cup. The day nearly ended in disaster as the ground was allowed to fill to double its capacity. Bolton won the match 2 – 1.

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday, 15 April 2014
commencing at 8.00 pm

TALK: The Wantage Tramway

An Illustrated talk by Lawrence Waters

At United Reformed Church, Temple Road, Cowley
Annual Membership fee £18 (OAP £16)
Visitors welcome £3 per meeting

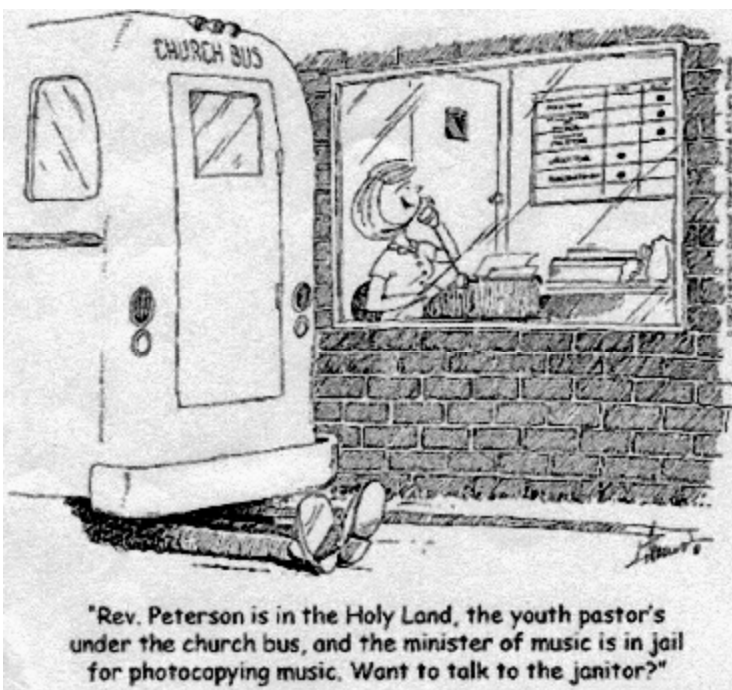
FLOWER OF THE MONTH – CAMELLIA

The name of this flower has an interesting story. It was named by the famous botanist, Linnaeus, after a Moravian Jesuit missionary whom he much admired. His name was Georg Josef Kamel. This worthy priest probably never knew that a beautiful flower paid tribute to his name and for that matter he probably never actually saw one either. Why the change from K to C? Well, all plants are given universal Latin names and the Latin language does not contain a K so C was used instead.

A native of China and a relative of the tea species they are tough plants which hate to be kept in hot temperatures. The first camellia was sent to England in 1705 after a disastrous massacre of the officials in the East India Company. James Cunningham valued the plant so much that he rescued it and it found its way into the greenhouses of the famous Quaker botanist Peter Collinson in London. Fortunately

one of his gardeners took cuttings from the bush because Collinson kept his one camellia warm (too warm!) over the winter and it died.

The stunningly beautiful flowers grace many a garden in spring. They range from pure white through shades of pink to deep red. They are a symbol of purity and almost perfection and feature in many works of art enhancing the beauty of lovely ladies. Strangely though they are not quite perfect as they have no scent at all. Maybe there is a message there for the viewer of such pictures – perfect ladies might be just too good!



A notice to inform a congregation that their vicar has recovered from an illness:

**GOD IS GOOD
THE VICAR IS
BETTER**

THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

More than two thousand years ago there was a man born contrary to the laws of life.

This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He received no formal education and never possessed wealth or wide-spread influence.

He never travelled extensively. He only once crossed the boundary of the country in which He lived.

But this man's life has changed the course of history.

In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the waves, and hushed the sea to sleep.

He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His services.

He never wrote a book. Yet His life has inspired more books than any other man.

He never wrote a song. Yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all songwriters combined.

He never founded a college. But all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never marshalled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun. Yet no leader ever had more rebels surrender to Him without a shot fired.

He never practiced psychiatry. Yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

Once each week the wheels of commerce ceased their turning, and multitudes gather to pay homage and respect to Him.

Though time has spread two thousand years between the people of this generation and His birth, He still lives. His enemies could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him.

This man stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by His people, and feared by devils, as the risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

"God also hath highly exalted Him (Jesus Christ), and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Christ Pantocrator

Which, as solid, is a prayer,
simmers; the medium molten wax;
six hundred liquid years of thought awaiting
application to a wooden board.

Which, given agency, is the artist's
hand, writes encaustic supplication:
infused, informed by fluid past, makes
obeisance for future souls.

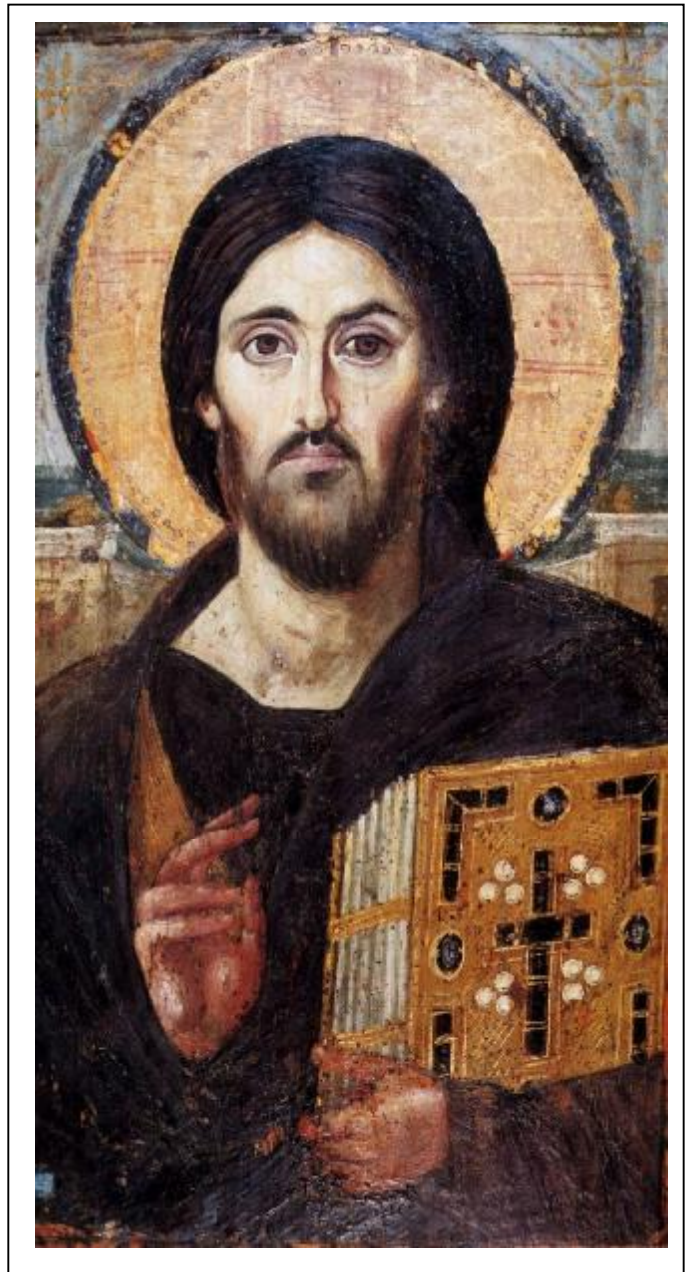
Who, repeats, finds liberation
in the circle; in the gilt gold halo,
the pantocratic frown, finds forma in
the Holy Book, benediction and

demi-mien, the eye of the man
in sallow waxy features shared
with an Other. Who, repeats,
rephrases a silent statement,

which, as solid, is a prayer –
mouths words spoken over
and again for fifteen hundred
years; in mimesis follows the hand

which, given agency, is the artist's;
moves from penitence to
submission to gratitude to
love. Ossified image, teach:

who repeats, finds liberation.



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:
Tree outside Barracks (Hollow Way)*

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

Plans are well in hand for the usual pattern of Easter Services at our church, and publicity will be ready soon. We are having a Stations of the Cross with a more modern commentary suitable for our times. We are hanging on to our Easter Eve Service with its charismatic symbolism of Christ coming as light into a dark world. We just hope and pray that we will draw in more parishioners to hear the glorious Easter message of hope and resurrection. Our Lent Course 'The Things that He Carried' is going well and there is a good feeling of fellowship at our gatherings in St Francis Church.

The usual arrangements were made for Mothering Sunday with posies of spring flowers distributed to mothers, and for mothers who could not make the service.

Coffee mornings are still being held with a slightly different emphasis.

Our Children's Sunday Club, led by Joel, is strong, and we admire their handiwork at the end of our services. Friends of St Francis is still going steady and concentrating on bible study and prayer.

Looking to the future our planned river outing in May is firmly booked and has received good support.

All in all – much to rejoice about.

John Shreeve



Gooseberry Cake

(although it can be made with other fruit, such as apricots or rhubarb)

1 lb fresh gooseberries, topped and tailed

For the sponge:

4 oz unsalted butter

4 oz caster sugar

2 medium free-range eggs, lightly beaten

4 oz self-raising flour

For the crumble topping:

4 oz self-raising flour

2 oz unsalted butter

3 oz soft brown sugar



Pre-heat the oven to 180C and line a 9in spring-clip cake tin with good quality greaseproof paper
Make sure the gooseberries are clean and dry

Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually add the beaten eggs, beating all the time, then fold in the flour. Using a spatula, carefully spread the mixture evenly into the lined tin and place the gooseberries on top.

Working quickly, rub together the topping flour and butter then add the sugar. Sprinkle over the top of the gooseberries in the tin and place immediately in the pre-heated oven.

Bake for 1 ¼ hours.

Remove from the oven, then leave to cool a little before taking out of the tin. Serve immediately.

Rosanne interviews Pat and Bill Davies

You may remember me writing a couple of months ago about the Florence Park Estate eightieth celebrations. One of the events they are planning is the most attractive front garden competition. Well, I'll tell you something else – those residents in that area will have to reach some pretty high standards to compete with the lovely spring garden I found when I walked up the front path to Pat and Bill's door.

This pleasant couple have always considered St James to be their mother church (they have lived all their married lives in the parish) but have only recently become regular members of the congregation. Bill told me that they would usually come to the Christmas midnight service, sometimes to the carol service but he felt embarrassed about it. "How come?" I asked. "Because I felt we were using the church for the wrong reason, as a tool to make our Christmas more special and then not bothering for the rest of the year". So what changed all that?" "Howard" they both declared in unison. How that happened will become apparent later on.

Pat is a dyed-in-the-wool Cowley girl who cites as her ancestors the old family names

of Johnson and Lees. As a child she lived in Cumberland Road. She was an only child and told me how she longed for a baby brother or sister to love. Not that there was a shortage of love in her early life as her granny, who took on the responsibility of bringing her up, was the kindest, caring lady. Her mother was a working mum so it was granny who walked her to her infant school – SS Mary and John's in Hertford Street. She was a happy little girl, did well at school and, at aged eleven, transferred to Cowley St John secondary school.

Bill was born in Rose Hill but his parents moved to a home in Barns Road whilst he was still very young. He has two brothers, one older and one younger. Being the middle child he felt he always had to "fight his corner" and this helped to form a strong character. He attended Rose Hill infant school at the age of five and then moved to Lawn Upton primary school. However once the family had settled in Cowley he completed his primary education at Church Cowley School (now Church Cowley St James). He loved his school days mainly because he was good at football and

athletics. Once he reached his secondary years at Temple Cowley and had begun to "notice" girls, it became clear that the lads in the school team would catch their eyes! He also developed into an excellent 100m runner representing Oxford in school athletic competition.

His growing up years were the days of youth clubs and discos and he, together with his best friend, Les Hallet, took full advantage of the whole scene. He well remembers the parish youth club which was run for a number of years in the former Parish Hall in Between Towns Road. I tried to find out what kind of activities took place. Bill could remember table tennis and disco dancing but also a chance to chat up the girls! There were a number of evenings for youngsters in Cowley Community Centre and Sunday evening discos at "Windy City" in Blackbird Leys. It was there that he met Pat who had been persuaded to accompany her cousin on a once-only occasion. She was just sixteen.

Bill's mate, Les, was a couple of years older and owned a car. The two lads were "mods" (as opposed to the motor biking "rockers"). They would take

themselves off to Brighton where they witnessed some of the violent sea-front clashes between teenage gangs at the time. Wisely the Cowley boys stayed out of trouble. They did get to other places like Upper Heyford, the base at Brize Norton and the Bridge Hotel at Wheatley where they memorably saw Johnny Kid and the Pirates perform.

All this time Pat had been growing up too. On leaving her secondary school she joined the office staff at BMC where she worked in the wages department. In the afternoons she joined the typing school where, along with a good many other Cowley teenagers, she became a competent typist. She then moved to the offices of the John Allen factory and next she spent two years working at Belclere, the company who made transformers.

That fateful meeting with Bill when she was only fifteen turned into a real romance and by the time she was seventeen they were engaged. It took three more years of courtship before their wedding, though, because they explained with a smile, in those days you had to save up for it.

So what was Bill doing to help save? Incredibly he got his first

job at Butlers supermarket in Cowley Road at the princely wage of £3.17s.4p a week! He found a better job at The Birmingham Waste Paper Company in Crowell Road (Many of our readers will remember the sheets and sheets of old newspapers which would be blown about, even into Beauchamp lane, from there on windy days). From there he moved to John Allens and by then he and Pat were able to get married. It was a registry office wedding which was not how Pat had wanted it.

Their first married home was a caravan at Wheatley. It was there that their first baby daughter, Helen, was born. Two years later their second daughter, Clare, came along thus completing their family. The family moved to a new home in the developing Boundary Brook Estate and the little girls went to Donnington Playgroup, run by Chris Knevet and Maida Simmonds. Bill and Pat got to know and love the area. They would take their girls for walks and to play in Florence Park and the ambition to buy one of the attractive houses in Florence Park Road grew in their hearts.

By this time Bill had found an excellent job in the factory and money was more forthcoming.

So thirty years ago they were able to put down a deposit on one of the houses they had dreamed of. It needed quite a lot of "T.L.C." and alteration and Bill set to and has transformed it. His next job (where he remained for twenty years) was with British Gas but, too young for retirement he was made redundant. Never deterred he joined Thames Water where he worked for another eight years.

Once the girls were growing up, Pat found a job at the big girls' school in Headington. She loved all that it entailed – looking after youngsters boarding away from home. She enjoyed her time there so much she stayed for 30 years.

After nearly forty years of marriage Pat and Bill were about to celebrate their ruby wedding. Bill had known deep down all those years how disappointed his lovely wife had been over their civil wedding and so, right out of the blue, he suggested that they renew their marriage vows in church. You remember how I had mentioned Howard earlier on in my interview – well it was decided that they would make an appointment to meet him and plan their service. That did it! They were completely bowled over by the warm welcome they got. As it

happened on the day Howard was unable to officiate as he had been called away on family business to Canada so Tony Beetham filled the gap. However, St James Church (well it was God, of course) was calling. One day, again quite unexpectedly on Pat's part, Bill said "Let's go to church on Sunday". They went, loved the service and, again, the warm welcome and are now fully part of the congregation. They have just taken part in the recent Alpha course and spoke highly of their group leader, Caroline Hartley.

Both now retired they are as busy as ever. Bill is very involved in the Freemasons and they are proud grandparents. Clare has a son and daughter, both in their teens but regularly in touch with Pat and Bill. When I went to do this interview they declared that they did not have much of a story to tell. I disagreed because theirs is a tale of a young couple who fell in love, have had a remarkably happy marriage and have a lot more time to come to share with their family, friends and fellow Christians. What better story could there be?

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

P: Obedient – my grandmother was very strict. She was my rock.

B: Naughty, but very happy. I used to get into quite a few scrapes.

Have you any good memories of childhood?

P: I was always so happy. I had a friend whose dad had a big garden in Glanville Road (just round the corner). He used to let us go and pick his peas and eat them – lovely!

B: I was about three or four and I had some new wellies. I poured water into the sink so I could paddle. It all poured out all over the kitchen floor.

The other thing I remember, when I was only about four, the police coming to the door to speak to Billy Davies. They came to complain to my mum and dad that I had been pulling bricks off the wall that was being built round the school. No sooner had the builders laid the bricks than I was pulling them off.

Has there been someone who has had a special influence in your life?

P: My aunt, Jasmine. She always understood me, always on my side.

B: My father. If there was something I wanted he would always manage to come up with it.

Has your faith been with you since an early age?

P: Yes. It was at school that I learnt about God.

B: When I was young I always went to church. I am sure I was in Brian's (Tidy) choir. I remember choir practice.

Do you have a treasured possession?

P: My old Bible. I have had it since 1955.

B: My father's gold watch – for long service at British Leyland.

What is your opinion of present-day society?

P: I think it is going down the pan. It worries me for my grandchildren (and great-grandchildren). Society's values are not as good as they were, family bonds are not as strong as they were.

B: I agree with Pat. I can see it in decline.

If you could change something in a really big way, what would you do?

P: I would try to get people to live together peaceably.

B: Ditto

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

P: All of mine for different reasons and 'cos I am married to the best bloke.

B: I especially enjoyed watching my children grow up.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

P: I love flower arranging. Watching period dramas on TV (Bill does not like them). We have some superb friends and we see them a lot.

B: Masonry is my main interest, it keeps me busy. Also my garden and DIY.

What plans do you have for the future?

P & B: We hope to spend more quality time together.

OPEN THE BOOK

We go into St Francis School every Thursday morning in term-time and perform a Bible Story. We are only a small team - Lesley Williams, Joan Coleman, Joan Lees, myself and, if he is able, Dave Stanley. Skye of course is our Co-ordinator. We arrive at approximately. 10am and after a brief rehearsal, the classes begin to file into the hall to music with their teachers. Before the performance Skye says "Good Morning" to the children and they reply "Good Morning Skye, Good Morning Everyone". Then she asks the children what they can remember about the previous weeks Story. Hands shoot up immediately and for correct or nearly correct answers, little sticker stamps are awarded and stuck on chests with pride.

Recently there was a Special Day when all the children filed into the hall dressed up to represent various characters in Children's Books. They all looked so colourful and attractive and had obvi-

ously made a big effort to capture their particular character perfectly. Even the teachers took part in dressing up! Some children (it can be as many as six) are chosen to come and help us in acting out the Bible Story, which they love to do. I am sure that knowledge of the Bible has increased considerably and both the school and the church are working together to build a good relationship. Skye invites the children to write prayers, in their own time, in our language or, if they prefer, in their own language. Space has been made available in the school vestibule, for a Prayer Board and Table. This is being used extensively by the pupils.

The Revd Richard Hibbert said OPEN THE BOOK will not make new disciples, but it will put the jigsaw pieces of Christianity on the table. Then others can show how they fit together".

Marlene Shreeve

**Seen inside a church in Canada:
CHURCH PARKING ONLY
VIOLATORS WILL BE BAPTISED**

Safer Internet Day at St Francis CE Primary

On Tuesday 11th February, St Francis CE Primary experienced Safer Internet Day along with children not only around the country but around the world. We were lucky enough to be visited by Jo Brown, Oxfordshire Anti-bullying Co-ordinator, two police officers and a representative of the Oxfordshire Children's Safeguarding Board. They gave us a talk about staying safe on the Internet and their advice was really useful.

The children in Y5/6 were really excited especially when they saw the TV camera! The panel of experts asked us about the information we already knew and then gave us more. Our classmates answered questions enthusiastically and also asked some questions of their own. We also completed the online Safer Internet and cyber-bullying survey set up by Jo Brown.

We covered lots of useful information like what the CEOP button is for (to report problems). Our advice to other children is to be very careful about chatting to other people on line and to always check with an adult (someone you trust) before doing anything you are unsure of. Make sure you don't give out any personal information (address, age, real name etc.) and always keep your password safe.

We were really pleased to see our school on the 6.30pm local BBC Oxford news that evening. Our journalism club and school blog site were also mentioned!

By Hamza Aamir and Mateen Latifi

St James Churchyard

A new project has been started by Erma and me to endeavour to chart the whole of the churchyard and number all the graves. We are seeking out all the old records and known burial details in the hope of identifying each space. The plots with memorial stones have been accurately measured and we will continue to expand on that. Possibly not totally feasible but will give an educated guess as to who is where.

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Time to get busy!

It took a couple of weeks, once the rains finally stopped, for the ground on the allotment to dry out sufficiently for the "other half" to start the spring digging. Some gardeners have raised beds and do minimal cultivation but we are a bit old fashioned in that we grow stuff in conventional rows and like to turn the ground over with a spade. Doing this can incorporate the annual weeds that have grown over the winter. And boy, do they grow! We have a beautiful covering of chickweed and red dead nettle, both flowering, and the bumble bees love the red dead nettle flowers, so I am reluctant to hoe them off before we have to.

My autumn-planted garlic is already looking good and my "digger" is complaining that he has to dig round them. The implement he is digging with is a spade which was a wedding gift 39 years ago. We have had an allotment nearly for the same time and the spade has worn more on the side my left-hander favours. It has quite a slope and is a much-loved tool.

I sowed a small row of rocket late last summer. It is hopeless to sow earlier as the flea beetles just turn the leaves to lace. I didn't get the opportunity to pick it all so the plants flowered and set seed. Wow, didn't I have a wonderful self-seeded crop by mid-March. They had grown to about 30 inches tall with greyish-yellow flowers. They had to go, unfortunately. We have now pulled them up and placed them in the bottom of our 2014 runner bean trench hoping that they, together with the remains of last year's beetroot and turnip crop, will give moisture to our growing beans later in the year. So the new year of sowing and

growing will soon begin on the plot.

I have already started to sow seeds with an eye on growing for the Plant Sale on May 17th. My small electric propagator is up and running and pots of seedlings are already accumulating in the greenhouse. I have some horticultural fleece to cover them for the inevitable cold, and probably frosty, nights still to come.

I am also weeding the borders at home and potting up bits of herbaceous perennials to grow on for the sale. I am hoping that the gardeners among you will be doing the same and that you have the date of the sale inscribed on the calendar. We want to have masses of plants to sell, and hopefully we will also have a raffle and other stalls selling homemade cakes and jams/marmalades, bric-a-brac etc. as well as the famous Cowley catering. Do please come and buy and to help on the day.

Joan Coleman

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CHRISTIAN AID

OVER THE EDGE:
that was St Mary
Magdalen
Church's tower on
Saturday 8 March
and Lesley
Williams did! She



loved it, as usual, and has paid for the pleasure but a few friends (including one in Australia) and colleagues were so impressed that they have also contributed resulting in £170 + gift aid, so just about £200, which starts off our Parish Christian Aid giving for 2014. The Just Giving page is still open: www.justgiving.com/lesley-williams-oxford

Then she also stood at Tesco with a collecting box for a couple of Wednesday lunchtime hours recently: not a great success but another £40 contributed, which, as Sarah Clay from Christian Aid has pointed out: in Ethiopia it could provide training for a group of 10 farmers on how to manage a small-scale irrigation system allowing them to water market gardens throughout the year and provide more food for their families.

SUPER SOUP LUNCH: this will be held before the APCM on Sunday 6 April. All 153 on the Parish Electoral Roll should be there for the meeting, to hear reports on the life of the Parish in the past year and elect the new Church Wardens and PCC. If they all, and anyone else who decides to just stay for a Lenten lunch, donate £5 for their lunch, we should add at least £800 to the pot!

LIVE BELOW THE LINE: 'Live below the line' is back, with the challenge of eating on less than £1 a day for 5 days. It is really an awareness raising exercise but can also be sponsored, with

one of the charities involved being Christian Aid. This year, the national week is 28 April – 2 May but the challenge can also be accepted at any time during April/May/June.

Some of us are definitely committing to another go, although probably adapting the rules again whilst sticking to the principle, and we would be glad to hear from anyone else who will join in. Maybe we could undertake it together during Christian Aid Week, May 11-17 – collecting door to door for world poverty projects when hungry oneself would have any extra significance.

See www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christianaidweek/live-below-the-line/



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, May 11-17: St James is again registered to undertake a house to house collection in as many local streets as possible: so now is the time to look at your diary for that week and see whether you could sign up to deliver envelopes early in the week and then return to collect – if possible at least a couple of times – early evening during the week. It works well to undertake it as a pair or group. There will soon be the usual 'sign for a street' list available and we will invite volunteers to a team tea to produce the collectors' packs, share ideas and pray together nearer the time.

We hope St Francis congregation will again also find a way to support the week.

War tears lives apart

Love can help piece them back together

**'The Lord is my rock,
my fortress, and my
deliverer... in whom
I take refuge.'**

2 Samuel 22:2-3

For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is a part of daily life.

Right now, fuelled by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the numbers of people driven from their homes by war is on the rise.

It stands at 42 million people – an appalling statistic and a stain on the conscience of humanity. We can't turn our backs. We must act now.

The good news is that your church can make a real difference.

Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise over £12m for Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week (11–17 May 2014) we want to go even further.

We want every church in Britain and Ireland to get involved – whether by giving, acting or praying.

Together we can send people living in fear this message: you are not alone. We're with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace.



Imagine what such an expression of love would mean to people searching for the strength to cope with the devastation of war, and how it could help to drive out their fear.

Demonstrate God's love for those living in poverty and show how much good the church is doing in the world this Christian Aid Week.

Together we can reach the 42 million people caught up in conflict and help them live a life free from fear.

Could you provide the gift of hope?

- £15** could provide blankets for refugee children to protect them from bitter night-time temperatures.
- £40** could provide enough good quality and nutritious food for two refugee children for a month.
- £150** could help us provide specialist emotional support for a child deeply traumatised by the horror of war that they've witnessed or experienced.

**Be an instrument of God's peace.
Give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week.**

caweek.org



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from The Cowley Chronicle, August 1963.

Going to Christ's Hospital

"The lyke provision was never in any Christian kingdome" – thus wrote a certain John Howes of the founding of Christ's Hospital in 1552 in the old buildings of the house of Greyfriars for the poor children of the City of London.

It was to be a place of education and maintenance for both boys and girls, but in 1778 the girls' school moved to Hertford and in 1902 the boys to Horsham.

This year, Janice Golder is leaving to go to read for a degree in psychology at either Manchester or Huol universities. She has taken three subjects at Advanced level – English, History and Logic – this summer and now waits for the results. She won two prizes this year, one for Art and Needlework.

Her place is to be taken by Liga Jaunitis of St Christopher's. She has been at the school since her parents first came to Oxford in 1958. She, too, has left school with two prizes, one for Good Progress. She goes to Christ's Hospital School hoping to be able to continue her interest in ballet, piano and swimming.

Vincent Phipps of Walton, Hereford, by will dated April 23, 1772, gave the governors of Christ's Hospital £1,000 to provide education for a child of either sex from the parishes of Cowley and St Mary Magdalen, Oxford.

The present parish of Cowley St John in East Oxford is, of course, part of this area.

When the time comes for a child holding this scholarship to leave Christ's Hospital, the vacancy is advertised and children of either sex whose age

is in accordance with the regulations, are able to take the examination.

The donor of the charity is also commemorated in Cowley by Phipps Road.



Extract from The Cowley Chronicle, April 1967



Scholarship Winner

Eleven-year-old JULIE SANSOM of 26 The Grates, Cowley, and a pupil of Cowley St James School, who has won a scholarship to Christ's Hospital School in Hertfordshire. The award is open to children in the original parish of Cowley, before the creation of S.S. Mary and John parish and other adjustments.

COWLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

- The PCC met on the 17 March 2014. The main items under discussion were:
- The 2013 Accounts: PCC noted that the Accounts had been examined and were satisfactory. They would be presented officially to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 6 April 2014.
- The 2014 Budget: The proposed budget was discussed when the pressures on the budget were highlighted. It was noted that the Parish Share had been increased by 2% and would be £53,837 for 2014 (£152.98 per day).
- The provision of a Faculty for the Bell Tower at St James Church was still under consideration but we understand that we should receive agreement shortly. We have been informed that the old wooden ladder in the Bell Tower is of no historical value and can be changed.
- A Clarity and Commitment Day is being held on the 12 April 2014 to consider ideas for the future of the Old School Building.
- Some solar lights have been installed as a trial on the footpath to the Church.
- The PCC considered and accepted quotations for the following work:
 - Outside Painting at St Francis
 - Outside Painting at St James Church Centre
 - Replacement of Lighting at St James Church Centre
- The PCC agreed that the arrangements for the Anglican Asian Living Church to use St James Church and the Church Centre should continue to the end of the year, when it will be reviewed again. A liaison committee is meeting regularly to discuss working arrangements. It was appreciated that changes needed to be made for certain church events such as Snowdrop Weekends, Good Friday and the Christmas Tree Festival, alternative arrangements had been suggested.
- Meeting dates for the 2014 – 2015 Church Committees and PCC meetings were agreed. In future these are going to be held after Sunday services (with one exception). A list of the meetings will be on the notice boards.
- The next PCC meeting is on Sunday, 4 May 2014 at St Francis Church at 12.15 pm.
- Annual Meetings:
 - Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday, 6 April 2014, at 2.30, at St James Church Centre
 - St Francis Church Committee Annual Meeting, Sunday, 27 April 2014 at 12 noon.
 - St James Church Committee Annual Meeting, Tuesday, 29 April 2014 at 7.30 pm at St James Church Centre.

Sally Hemsworth

SAINT OF THE MONTH—St Mark

25th April is St Mark's Day. As a close friend of Jesus and the writer of one of the gospels it is easy to assume that we "know" Mark.

However there is a little more to learn about him than that which is immediately apparent. For instance theological historians believe that the meeting place for the Apostles in Jerusalem described as John Mark's mother's house was more than probably his home.

In Mark's gospel 14 v51 the young man who followed Jesus into the Garden of Gethsemane, witnessed his arrest and then escaped by slipping out of his jacket was Mark himself. If you read the account it is almost certainly an "I was there" episode.

Mark was a companion to both Peter and Paul on their missionary journeys but he returned to Jerusalem only to join up with Barnabas later. The two of them set off for Cyprus and we read of their preaching there in Acts 13 and 15. When Paul was captured in Rome Mark journeyed there to support and comfort him and connect with the new Christians there.

Peter was very fond of him and in one of his letters refers to him as "my son". Later interpreters of the New Testament declared this may not have been simply an affectionate address but that Mark could well have been Peter's son. His gospel was probably the first of the four to be written so was more immediate than the others.

He certainly (according to historical records) went to Alexandria and is reputed to have been the first bishop of that city. No one knows for certain how he was martyred as there is no New Testament record of this but tradition has it that he was killed in "the eighth year of Nero". His body is known to have been brought from Alexandria to Venice and he has become its patron saint to this day. The original church where his relics rested burned down in 976 but the magnificent basilica which stands in its place still contains St Mark's bones. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist is the lion, much in evidence in Venice. The basilica there also contains a series of magnificent mosaics depicting the story of his life.

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Cowley at the turn of the Twentieth Century

(from Nan Davies' memoirs)

Where Morris Motors Sports Club field is today there was a big open field that stretched to Sandy Lane, the golf links from Marsh Cowley came to here so that made around three or four miles of open ground, then a lane leading towards Headington, more spare land bringing us to the corner of Barracks Road.

Opposite that there were three or four fields joining on to each other by crossing gates and stiles to Shotover. Opposite there and bringing us back to Barracks Road and a pub on the corner, then open fields until we come to Cowley Barracks a lovely old place which always had a soldier on duty and who had to pass everybody going in through the iron gates. It had a lovely old tower which was pulled down a few years ago because it was unsafe. It had the officers' quarters, married quarters, living place for the single men, a large gymnasium, tennis court and sometimes they would have a dance in the ballroom and in later years I would get an invitation and how I loved it.

Now past there more spare ground out to the corner of Horspath Road where there were two very queer old cottages. They were built up a kind of bank and there big gardens dropped about 15 feet sloping down, only about 6 more houses, then small holdings with masses of ground to them that took you

down to Brasenose Lane back the other side to Cowley Recreation ground where there was a set of swings, another thing to go round on and where the boys could play football and cricket.

At the top of Horspath Road were 2 nice houses but quite old and a row of little cottages were there. They are still there today, their back gardens overlooking the recreation ground. More spare ground until we get to Dr Ivy Williams's house and Colonel Stokes' house, both these people did a lot of good work for Cowley. Now more land, no houses built there at all. Junction Road has not altered all that much, except that the monks did have a tiny Chapel where meetings were held, and on the other side about 4 modern houses have been built. The older ones are as I saw them 70 years ago, so now we go back to Temple Road, spare ground all round the corner until we get to 2 old cottages, one a Mrs Johnson lived in and the other a Mr Harvey who was a foreman for Farmer White. Mr Harvey had twelve children, his weekly wage, fourteen shillings.

Then came Ben Butler's pub, he too had a large family and also a big garden (Editor's note: The Cricketers). Then came the yard, still there today, where Farmer White's 2 employees lived, his shepherd and an odd job man.

St Christopher's – Opening of the Academy

St Christopher's became an Academy on the 1st of February, as part of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust. We held a special opening service for the whole school on Thursday 13th March, which was attended by the Diocesan Director of Education, Anne Davey. The children listened really attentively while she spoke to them about what it means to be part of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust family of schools. She also talked about the importance of having high aspirations and introduced a former pupil of our school, Mr John Putt, who is Chair of Governors at the Oxford Academy. For

many years he was a successful professional golfer and then worked within the Formula 1 industry. Other guests included Fiona Craig (the deputy Director of the Trust), Peter Hullah (Trustee on the board of the ODST), Jenny Lee (our Chair of Governors), and Di Bradley and Joel Denno (Foundation Governors). Alison Holden, the Head teacher, led the service alongside Rev Howard Thornton, who also gave a blessing. The guests were treated to coffee and a special celebration cake afterwards.

Sheenagh Broadbent
Deputy Headteacher

Most of our generation were HOME SCHOOLED in many ways:

- 1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE**
“If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning”
- 2. My mother taught me RELIGION**
“You better pray that will come out of the carpet”
- 3. My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL**
“If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!”

ST JAMES OLD SCHOOL

Anyone who feels called to be involved in the development of the sad Old School is invited to a 'Day of Clarity and Commitment' at St James Centre on Saturday 12 April, 10.00-3.00, led by Sir Christopher Ball. No, we haven't yet had a vision of what the building should become – it must be for education, faith and community – but it WILL come. Let Howard know if you will be there.

Bellringing News

It is nearly two years since I started to learn to ring the bells at St James. When I started I had no idea what a long process it was going to be, and also how sociable a pastime it is. I have also had the opportunity to visit some particularly beautiful churches in hidden corners of the countryside. This past weekend, three of us from Cowley joined the Oxford City Branch spring outing to Wiltshire. This involved five towers, starting in Royal Wootton Bassett, where three of the eight bells are still in use since being cast in 1633. Next it was on to Lyneham, and I found it quite hard to tear myself away from the beautiful stained glass windows (one of which featured aircraft from RAF Lyneham), to climb the stairs to the ringing chamber. Then we were on our way to Lydiard Millicent, the beautiful church set in the grounds of Lydiard Manor, now owned by Swindon Council and open to the public. The church is full of impressive monuments to the St John family, and also contains some stunning stained glass, old box pews and remnants of ancient wall paintings. After this was a much needed lunch stop in Lydiard Millicent, before ringing at the church there, and finishing in the dramatic church of St Mary's in Purton, notable for having both a tower and a spire.

Each church provided a very different ringing experience. Lyneham was notable for its new ropes, which had accidentally been ordered too long. New ropes feel rather like ringing on elastic, and if you add to that the length, which means on each pull the spare rope smacks you in the face, it was certainly interesting. Most dramatic was Purton. The ringing chamber is set in a huge gallery overlooking the impressive church interior. It was the longest draught of rope most of us had ever seen, and this made us fairly nervous, as bells set like this need very precise handling, and the bells themselves were far heavier than we are used to. We all persevered though, and came away with a feeling of great achievement. In the minibus home we reflected on what a wonderful day it had been. Not just the ringing, but the good company, and the beautiful churches which we would probably otherwise never have seen.

If you think you would like to try a hobby which offers all of this, then please do come along and see us one Thursday evening 7.30 – 9pm. Ringers in Oxford range from 10 to 80+, and really are a very friendly bunch.

Lindsay Powell

CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the February edition:

Wednesday 23 April 2014

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

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SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| 10.00am | Sung Eucharist |
| Every 3rd Sunday at 4.30pm (<i>in church</i>) | Church at the Centre |
| Every third Sunday | Sunday Lunch |

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| 10.30am | Parish Eucharist |
|---------|------------------|

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 |
| 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
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378
Website: 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
Skye has Wednesday as her day off.

Associate Priest

Revd Richard Chand
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Non-stipendiary Ministers

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Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Gordon Hickson
Tel: 07713 688079

Revd Tony Beetham
Tel: 01865 770923
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Churchwardens:

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Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532
John Shreeve Tel: 717987

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Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

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

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