

Skye writes...

On the 24th May, a group of us, representing both churches in the parish, took a trip down the Thames from Oxford to Abingdon. It was a summery thing to do.

How might it have been, in the height of the season? We could have sat at the prow of the boat, our flutes full of bubbly, sipping our drinks as the light danced on the surface of the water. We could have basked in the rays of the sun on the uncovered back deck, nipping down into the shady confines of the bar now and again, when the heat got too much for us.

So what really happened? What really happened was that we had a good ol' dose of an authentic British summer. It wasn't sunny, but it was tolerably warm. We needed to drink tea to keep us at an acceptable temperature. The rain held off for most of the trip and then forced us to shelter in the middle of the boat, under the rain covers, as we approached our destination. Nobody got wet, but nobody got sunburned either.

Summer is an optimistic time, but we must remember to temper our optimism with realism. And, actually, there is a joy to be found in the realism; a joy and an encounter with God.

There is a correlation, I think, between our optimism and that of the disciples, both at the very start of Jesus' ministry, all the way up to his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It must have felt to them, in those early days, that they were basking in his presence, just as we want to bask in the sun. But spending time with Jesus, they found out, wasn't the perfect summer experience. There was opposition. Just as there are rainclouds in Oxford in June. When you look up and see those clouds threatening to ruin

your barbeque, imagine the looks on the faces of the disciples when the Pharisees showed up.

Some of the expectations of the disciples were unrealistic. They thought that Jesus had come to lead the revolution against the Roman occupation. They saw him as an agitator, which he was, but also as the man who could lead a revolt. But these expectations were dashed when Jesus told them that he had to suffer and die. Perhaps that's why Judas betrayed him. Perhaps he was a disappointed Zealot, who couldn't stand to see his dreams crushed in a way that he couldn't understand. Which brings us back to being realistic. And finding God in that realism.

God is there no matter the weather. I always find that nature transports me into his presence and there was plenty to carry me there on the river yesterday. We saw gaggles and gaggles of geese, a smattering of herons, ducks and fields full of cows, but the highlight, for me, was when we caught sight of a kingfisher darting from branch to branch along the bank. There is something optimistic in the bright colours and dashing movements of these small birds and the drops of rain and the cool weather couldn't take that away.

I want you to be optimistic this summer and I want you to enjoy the vivid excitement of the season. I know that there will be moments, though, when the weather won't be nice, or when life itself will throw something unpleasant at us. Those are the times to remember that we can still find God. He is there in the reality and not the fantasy. He came to earth and suffered and we can still find him in unexpected places.

Skye

Chronicle

June 2014

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Well, that's another Christian Aid Week over and Lesley has promised to report how much we managed to collect in the Chronicle this month so look out for that later in the magazine. I know some of our faithful collectors find the going a bit tough but, as ever, I really enjoyed my rounds. Sure, I had a few refusals (though no-one was rude) but I also had some lovely doorstep conversations. I welcomed a gorgeous new baby boy to our street, was reassured that one of our elderly residents is having her eye problem sorted out, and got into a discussion on football and the World Cup (as far as the broken English would allow) with some friendly Brazilian neighbours, to mention only three.

The parish river trip has also come and gone, and what a super idea it was! The weather was a bit unfriendly but the folks on board were quite the opposite – we also witnessed a very romantic proposal (not from anyone in the church party though!). I want to report to the 37 trippers who alighted at Abingdon that Frank and I had a brilliant return trip to Oxford. The wind dropped, the sun shone out of a clear blue sky, the river sparkled and we, the only passengers on the steamer, sat back supping glasses of red wine – lovely.

The date which is fast approaching is the day of junketing in Florence Park to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the estate. I promised you more news of this last month, most importantly the times of the day itself. Things begin to happen on Saturday, 21 June at 11 am and end at about 5 pm. You can find out about all the attractions in last month's Chronicle. Let's hope the sun shines for

them on mid-summer's day.

It is still not too late to send in your connections to people who served in World War One. We have had several really nice offerings to add to our tribute pages but we can surely find room for more.

We are reminding all our readers that it will soon be time to re-order your annual issues of our magazine. This year May Morgan is going to put order forms in both churches, and there will be a loose sheet inside your copy of The Chronicle so that you won't have to snip the order form from The Chronicle pages. Please help us by reminding people who are housebound or further afield to re-order if you are in contact with them. As ever, new subscribers are very welcome and despite rising costs we are holding the price to £4.00 (for A5 size) or £5.00 (for A4 size).

I cannot end my letter this month without paying tribute to our dear friend, Maggie Giles, who died recently. Apart from those in the parish who knew and loved her, Maggie was also much loved and respected by countless numbers of children both at the Florence Park Community Centre playgroup, where she played the piano for their songs, and also at Donnington School where she did just about everything! She heard children read, escorted them on all kinds of trips, took care of them in the playground at lunchtimes as well as helping to keep their classrooms clean. Dear Maggie, I don't think we shall see her like again.

Despite my very lengthy letter, I hope you find your June issue of the Chronicle as good as ever.

God Bless

Rosanne

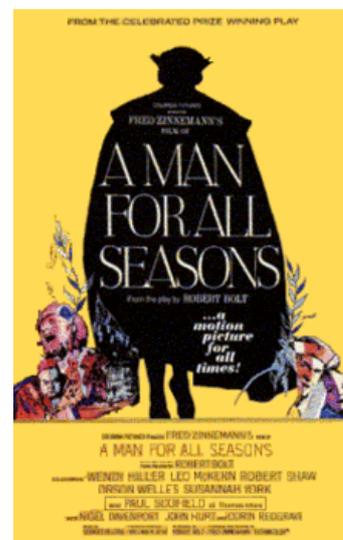
Film Club at the Centre

The film club evening in May saw another large number of members enjoying the showing of "Tea with Mussolini". The film is an excellent example of the fine quality of British actors we have nowadays. The stiff upper lip determination of the ladies in the cast was amazing, very ably led by our own Maggie Smith. It came as quite a surprise to a few members of the audience when they discovered that the whole series of incidents was based on fact, and that the producer had introduced a large part of his childhood and youth into the story.

This month's film, to be shown on 13th June, is "A Man for all Seasons" based very much on historical fact. It is a cinema classic with Paul Scofield as Sir Thomas More, the archbishop who was so bitterly involved in the break with Rome between Henry VIII and the pope. Of course, this was the foundation of the Church

of England. Robert Shaw plays the king and Susannah York plays Sir Thomas More's daughter, Margaret. The film gained nine Oscars and is beautifully acted and directed.

There are still several people who have asked to be included in our list of members and have never yet been to enjoy a club night. This is a pity as there are one or two regular guests who think they would like to be included as full members. If there is anyone who wants to be taken off the list please let us know. We shall be sorry, however, to lose you as you won't know what you have been missing.



Dorothy: Age is just a state of mind.

Blanche: Tell that to my thighs

If a woman tells you she's 20 and looks 16 she's twelve. If she tells you she's 26 and looks 26 she's pretty nearly 40.

KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves

Dance Based Keep Fit Class with Barbara

St Francis of Assisi Church
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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
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KFA Fitness through movement, dance and exercise

www.keepfit.org.uk

Book of the Month

Country Verse, edited by Samuel Carr
Chancellor press

This is a book that you can really relax with, no great effort involved. Something you can pick up or put down whenever you have a spare moment or two. And that is nice occasionally. It is a book that soothes, comforts and delights at one and the same time. It simply takes you to the countryside, through the seasons, and in verse and paintings.

The verse which more than any other is characteristic of English poetry is country verse. The painting which is the most representative of English pictorial genius is landscape painting. In this collection the poetry and the painting of the countryside are combined in such a way that each illuminates the other.

There are poets that are well known such as Robert Frost and W H Davies, and some are from olden times not so well known such as Thomas Wharton and William Barnes. The ladies are well represented too with names like Francis Cornford, Charlotte Bronte and Christina Rossetti. On the painting side we have Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable and William Palmer, amongst other lesser known artists. The whole thing gells together to form a most congenial harmony. You would be hard put to find a better anthology anywhere.

So I would say to you quite simply – ENJOY!!

Quiet Day

The next Quiet Day is on Wednesday, 2 July 2014, 10 am – 4 pm at Stanton House, Stanton St John. The Theme is “Travelling Light”. A day with lots of time for quiet and reflection in beautiful surroundings.

Cost £22 (including coffee, lunch and tea).

The number of places is limited. Please sign list in church if you would like to come.

For more information, please contact Helen Beetham (01865 770923) or Christine Woodman (01865 778078).

A customer in a restaurant complained about it being too warm and demanded that the waiter turned up the air conditioning. After a while he complained that he was cold and wanted the air conditioning to be turned off. This went on several times throughout the evening and surprisingly the waiter complied with his demands. When the troublesome customer had left the couple at the next table congratulated the waiter for his patience. “Oh that’s alright” he replied “We don’t have air conditioning in this restaurant”.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH – BUDDLEIA

Once upon a time, at the beginning of the eighteenth century actually, there lived a country rector in rural Essex. Like many parsons of his era he was a keen naturalist. Life as a village parson was in those days quite lonely and the likes of Gilbert White, Charles Kingsley and our reverent gentleman took to the consolation of natural studies. The Rev. Adam Buddle led a quiet, leisurely life taking to heart the philosophy of Charles Kingsley who wrote "all natural objects, all forms, colours and scents are types of some spiritual truth or existence". Although Rev. Buddle became an expert on mosses, the famous botanist Linnaeus thought his work important enough to name a "new" shrub after him. The shrub was introduced from Peru in 1774 where it grew wild. On arriving in Britain it was named Buddleia.

I must point out that this was not the mauve, purple or white variety which grows so profusely in gardens and waste ground nowadays. It was the bright yellow variety its flowers forming small globes at intervals along the stem. Although less well-known it is becoming increasingly popular in modern gardens.

Père Armand David, a Jesuit priest, who explored China in the late nineteenth century in search of "new" plants, gives his name to the mauve buddleia *davidi*. It was brought to

France and reached the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew in 1887. An Irish customs officer, Dr Augustine Henry was worried about the way the mountainsides in China were being denuded of their bushes and trees. Plant hunters were rife.

However the buddleia flourished in parks and gardens right through the twentieth century and with the advancement of the railway found the rough ground of many embankments much to its liking. It became known as the butterfly bush due to the rich nectar in its flowers. Many species of butterflies flock to it thus making it a good shrub for wildlife gardens. The coarser the soil the better it seems to flourish. To obtain a fine flowering season year on year it is advisable to cut dead flower heads off as soon as they begin to fade.



THE VALUE OF SERVICE

Some years ago the Israeli authorities were excavating the ground at a place called Zipporra in order to build a new wing to one of their prisons. As they were digging they came across a Mosaic floor which was obviously very ancient. Archaeological experts were called in and they carefully uncovered the remains and found something very interesting. In addition to the usual Christian symbols of the cross and the fish they found some half dozen or so Greek names, several of them women's names. Alongside the names was given briefly the service that these people had given. One had provided the table, another the sacred vessels, yet another had given the room where people had gathered, and so on. The experts soon came to the conclusion that they had stumbled upon the remains of an early Christian House Church. We had known that such

places existed but because of the frail nature of the buildings they had not survived the passage of time. We know that when the Christians finally fell out with the Jews they were denied access to the Synagogues for their worship, and so these house churches came into being. The fact that women were able to play a leading role in these churches was a breakthrough for that was not possible in the Synagogues.

That their services were recorded as of value was even more remarkable. We should take note of those who give of their time and talents in the service of our churches today, whether they be women or men. For Christ told his disciples that they had got to learn to serve one another, just as he had served them.

John Shreeve

CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the February edition:
Wednesday 25 June 2014

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
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**I knew I was going bald
when it was taking longer
to wash my face.**

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DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

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

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 St James Church Centre

10am—1pm

The last Saturday of each month

Next open on Saturday 28 June 2014

Film Club

Friday, 13 June 2014, commencing at 6.30 pm
with coffee and cake

"A Man for all Seasons"

St James Church Centre

Jungle Family Fun

10 – 2 pm

St Francis Church

Christian Aid Quiz

Friday, 27th June 2014, commencing at 7pm
St James Church Centre

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2014

First planning meeting

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

St Francis Church Committee

8 June 2014 - 12:15 pm

St James Church Committee

8 June 2014 - 12:15 pm

Quiet Day

2 July 2014 10 am – 4 pm

Stanton House, Stanton St John

Parochial Church Council

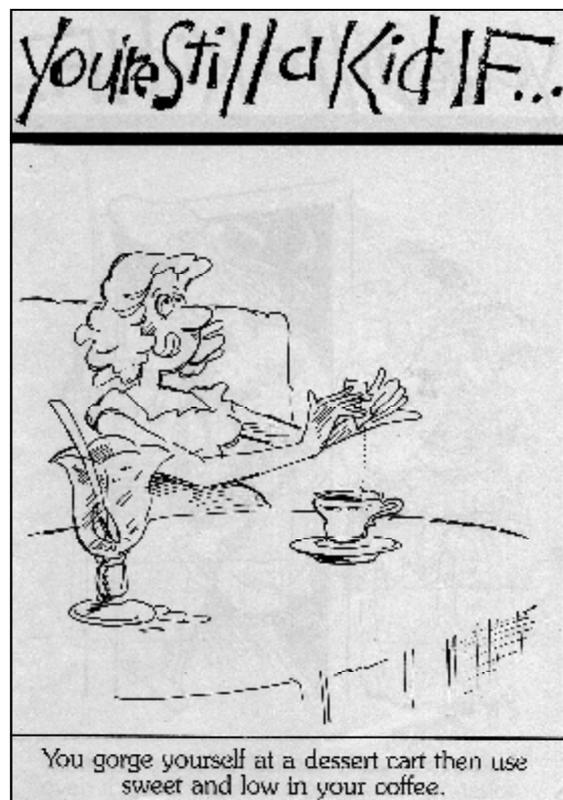
13 July 2014 - 12.15 pm

St James Church Centre

*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.



Cowley at the turn of the Twentieth Century

(from Nan Davies' memoirs)

Mr Charlie Hyde lived by The Grates and his wife's people had lived there years before them. He was a 'Jack of all Trades' - did bicycle mending, gardening, a bit of decorating etc. He had a field at the back that extended to Cruel Lane. Now passing a double fronted house with more spare land and an old fashioned cottage that stood right back and had a lovely old garden in front. It was always aglow with all the flowers you could think of. Another spare plot then a double fronted shop where Mr Bentley had his hairdressing saloon, one son did that, the other son did the papers, sweets and oddments side; his daughter worked hard doing anything needed, and the father bossed them all, not overworking himself.

Next to them right on the corner was the Harvey house, that also built well back from the street with a garden in front and a well.

This brings us back to High Street, Cowley, as it was then, but the extraordinary thing is, there is still today a thatched cottage built in the middle of a field at the back of Bartholomew Road and all the houses now built there, where a family have lived for years and years, had four children, but no road to it and is called Hockmore Cottage, and as far as I know the children have carried on living there, the name was Cripps.

Now I will take you back to Temple Road to the days when the Rev. Moore used to come round either on his horse or in a two wheeled cart drawn by a mule, well, you know, the old saying, and sometimes the mule would stop suddenly and refuse to go another step.

Georgie would swear and shout, get the whip to the mule, until the Reverend was purple with rage, then the mule would suddenly decide to move again. The poor Vicar would have a job to keep his balance, his two or three shaggy dogs would be yelping, always a few spectators, then you couldn't see him for dust.

If you had the bread delivered it was in a two wheeled cart drawn by two horses, with a trolley behind carrying the coal. The beer was delivered to the pub on big drays, mostly with two horses, but for extra big loads there would be four lovely big horses, often with their tails plaited, they trotted along so proudly, it was a joy for me to see them.

By this time a Mr Johnson had started up a little butcher shop by Mr Morris the coalman and he carried on there for some time. I used to take any papers I could find to him, sometimes as much as twelve pounds, and he gave me ½ d a pound for them, then he gave up and it became a sweet shop. A long time after Mr Agutter took it over as a little café, but after some time he left it to become a 'one-armed bandit machine' owner – now he is a rich man owning a Rolls Royce, a lovely house and I expect has forgotten those days altogether.

I asked my wife where she would like to go for our wedding anniversary. She thought it could be somewhere she's never been. I suggested the kitchen!



JUNGLE

Family FUN

10-2pm

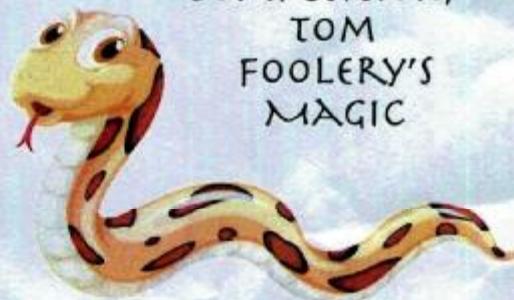
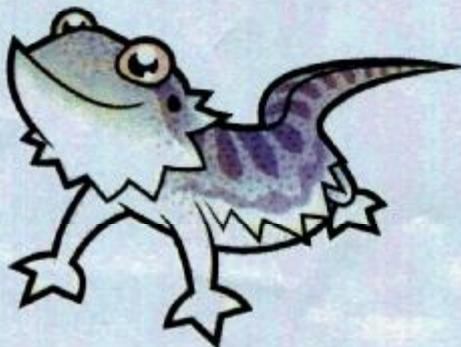


*St Francis Church,
Hollow Way*



'EVOLUTION REPTILES' BRINGING SNAKES AND LIZARDS TO HOLD
BOUNCY CASTLE, FACE PAINTING,
JUNGLE CRAFTS

BBQ, ST FRANCIS CAFÉ,
JUNGLE FANCY DRESS
COMPETITION,
TOM
FOOLERY'S
MAGIC



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11-17 May 2014

As usual, we – 13 of us, including Jess Hall who works in the regional Christian Aid team – collected door to door in some of the roads around St James Church to demonstrate our Christian commitment to our brothers and sisters, regardless of race and faith, living with poverty and conflict.

Again, only 17 roads were covered so lots of Cowley families did not have the chance to contribute – although all the three Parish schools' families were invited to do so. The total counted so far is £935.61, bringing our 2014 total to £1275.61.00, with the week's donations from St Francis Church still to be added.

Thank you to the door to door team and to everyone who has donated, to help Christian Aid lift people caught up in conflict to rebuild their lives and live free from fear.



CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ

Although Christian Aid Week is over there is still a chance for us to add to the total amount we have collected so far and have some fun at the same time. Our quiz evenings are good fun, full of friendly (!) rivalry and lots of "Oh I wish we'd thought of that". So put Friday, 27th June in your diaries and bring along family and friends for a great evening.

Chris Knevet has asked me to let you know that there will be soft drinks and nibbles provided. If you want to bring some wine or beer that's your own choice, we will be happy to provide glasses.

Because this is a fund-raising evening the entry charge will be £3 each rather than a cost per team. There will also be a raffle, and I have it on good authority that among the prizes there is an excellent bottle of champagne.

So at the Church Centre at 7 pm on 27th June we are hoping for a great evening raising funds for a great cause – do come.

Notes from an exhausted gardener

Thank you everyone who contributed to the Plant Sale. We had loads of plants to sell, as well as lots of yummy bakes, marmalades and bric-a-brac.

We have banked just over £900 which was a great achievement. Thank you also for all those who gave raffle prizes. The raffle alone made over £100. Thanks go also to the catering team. Chatting over a cup of tea and a piece of cake makes the day a great social occasion.

Now that all the preparation for the Plant Sale is now over, I can sort my garden out and spend more time on the allotment. The greenhouse had been crammed with plants and the tidy up started as soon as I got home.

June will start with all the tomatoes potted to their final place in the greenhouse. I have to tie them to canes and remove the side shoots as they will grow quickly in the warmth and enjoy the longer days. The glass will need to be shaded as the sun can burn tender leaves. I usually use the white stuff you can spray or paint on. I use an old broom for this purpose and usually get spots on myself and everything around.

Bedding plants can be planted out in the borders where there are gaps and there is a need for extra colour and also into pots for the season. Hanging baskets can be filled to make colourful displays but I have given up on these in recent years as they always are a disaster with me. I will be doing my usual before-breakfast inspection to remove slugs, snails

and red lily beetles. New plantings will need to be watered especially if we have a dry spell.

My small survey of trees this spring told me that the oaks' leaves were coming out faster than those on the ash trees. The old adage "Oak before ash, we'll have a splash" therefore applies. So I wonder whether we will have a hot summer with, I hope, some rain. I don't like a drought. We have had enough "soak", which is what you supposedly get if the ash leaves come before the oak. The heavy rain this last winter must certainly have washed minerals from the soil. I saw many a yellowing growing crop in fields locally and the same will have happened in our gardens. We will need to look out for deficiencies in our plants and a load of manure for the allotment will be essential in autumn.

Lack of rain on the allotment is a worry. Some people water daily encouraging roots to grow near the surface. These suffer if you miss a day or too. We don't water except when we are planting. Giving the courgettes, squashes, sweet corn and cabbages a good drink when they go in and hope they make good deep roots.

Most crops will have been planted by June and now it is a matter of housekeeping such as grass cutting, hoeing and waiting for the first new peas and broad beans. The other treat is the first boiling of new potatoes fresh from the plot. Delicious!

Joan Coleman

20 YEARS OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY

In 2014 we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women as priests in the Church of England

On **Saturday 7 June** you are invited to a **service of thanksgiving** at **Oxford's Cathedral at Christ Church at 11 a.m.**
The preacher will be the **Revd Preb Rose Hudson-Wilkin** and the President will be the **Ven. Karen Gorham, Archdeacon of Buckingham** including music and dance

This will be followed by a **Panel Discussion at St Mary the Virgin, Oxford, at 2 p.m.**
The Panel will be chaired by **Canon Dr Judith Maltby**
Speakers will be the **Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Revd Caroline Symcox, the Bishop of Buckingham and Christina Rees**

The service is for women and men, lay and ordained, young and old

If possible please let us know if you are able to attend by emailing **Tina Stirling tinadstirling@aol.com** or phoning **01296 747 587**

A special prayer for the day

Creating God,
you call us to share,
through gift and grace,
in the making of your kingdom.
We thank you for all who have inspired us
through their courage, vision,
and daring to believe in a different future.
Redeeming God,
we celebrate the hard work of those
who seek a richer church,
where the talents of all its members can be used
to your glory in the service of your world.
Sustaining God,
keep us faithful to your gospel,
alert to our failings,
and open to your spirit in all creation.
Amen

The prayer has been written specially for the occasion on 7 June by **Hannah Ward and Jennifer Wild**.

See more at:

www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/sharingjourney

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St Barnabas

Barnabas, the apostle, was not one of the original twelve disciples of Jesus but was one of the very early converts to the infant Christian Church. It was he who gave Paul the courage to face the congregation of Christians in Jerusalem. Barnabas escorted Paul back to Jerusalem after his conversion and the two men became friends. Barnabas was instrumental in evangelising to the Gentiles in Jerusalem, something about which some of his fellow Christians were somewhat wary.

Together Paul and Barnabas were sent to Antioch to spread the Gospel and from there set out on what is described as the first missionary journey to Cyprus. On their return to Jerusalem they fell out (though it is not clear what caused the rift) and Barnabas went back to Cyprus on his

own. He was successful there and many joined the Church.

It would seem that later on the two apostles cleared their differences and in both his letters to the Galatians and to the Ephesians Paul writes briefly about Barnabas' extensive missionary work. It is a strongly held belief that he was the first bishop of Milan. In 1530 St Anthony Zaccaria formed the order of Barnabites and the church associated with the order was dedicated to St Barnabas.

Legend claims he was martyred in 61AD in the city of Salamis. Many ancient churches in Britain were dedicated to him and several modern ones. Notably the beautiful church of St Barnabas in Jericho, Oxford will celebrate the apostle's saints day this month. The feast of St Barnabas falls on 11th June.



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 Churchyard exit*



Rosanne interviews Netta Simpkin

This month I want to introduce you to someone whose nickname ought to be "Action Lady" although introduce is not quite the right word I guess. You see Netta is someone who has been a friend, mentor and adviser to a generation of children and parents associated with Church Cowley St James Primary School for thirty-three years. Now a retired lady she has not taken to her armchair by any means and has no intention of doing so for years to come. So let's meet her.

In case I had any doubt about the exact location of her childhood home at Rose Hill she told me, "You know, Job's dairy was on the corner". I am sure many of my readers will now know just where she means. She was an outdoor girl from a very early age and recalls with affection the long, happy hours playing out with the other children on the estate. She reeled off her favourite games such as hopscotch, hula hoops, skipping and "onesy" ball and even cricket along the alley when she was a little older.

Along with her younger sister she was taken for long walks by the river. Her parents would

take them across Iffley Lock (1/2d to cross at the tollgate) and up to Long Bridges. On the way home they would often stop for a drink in the garden of the Isis pub on a summer evening.

At about the age of three she went to Singletree nursery and has nothing but happy memories of the time there. Each child had an individual motif to identify their peg and they each had a little towel and a mug with the same symbol. She loved the beautiful grounds around the house with lawns and trees where the children could play. Two years later she went to Rose Hill primary school. She had three cousins who were also pupils there so she soon felt at home and settled to her lessons quite happily. She told me she was "a good average" at school neither at the top nor the bottom of her class.

Weekends were busy too as she joined the ABC Minors at the Regal cinema where she and her friends could get into the show for 2d and shout and cheer their way through a Saturday morning show. For 2d each way on the bus and 2d

worth of chips at the Magdalen Road chippy you could have a great morning out for much less than a shilling.

On Sundays she and her sister went to Sunday school at Rose Hill Methodist Church which was also a happy memory. One slight shadow of those days though was the recollection of visits to Mr Elsey, the dentist whose surgery was at the bottom of Rose Hill. Netta closed her eyes and could almost smell the gas that was used in those days of dentistry. It brought a visible shudder.

When she was eleven her parents moved to Horspath and so Wheatley Secondary School was the next episode in her education. To get to school required a cycle ride each day in all weathers but "That's what you did" was her remark and indeed it was. She was happy there, again a good average student. She told me how much she enjoyed her needlework lesson when the girls were required to make their summer dresses from a pretty green cotton material with little flowers on it using a paper pattern. She did well in

maths and English and loved her music lessons, singing and learning to play the recorder. She left school at sixteen.

During her teens she joined the Girl Guides and recalls how one of the pieces of necessary equipment in those days was a knife. She still has a scar on her hand from a cut from the knife used for cutting string. She also joined the Methodist Church in Horspath and soon became a teacher for the younger children. There was an active youth club in the village where the youngsters could play games and dance. Lads from Cowley would cycle over especially for the dances and that was where, at about the age of fifteen, she met her life-long partner, Jim.

A little later on the young people would meet in a nice room at the back of The Chequers pub for dances. Netta told how her dad always insisted on his daughters wearing "sensible" shoes and how she would clump off in them with a pair of pretty thin-heeled winkle pickers tucked in her bag. Once at the dance out would come the shoes (bought she thinks at a jumble sale!) and help her to dance the night away to the pop songs of the sixties.

By now, of course, she had joined the world of work. Netta's first

job was in the office at Hopkins, the building suppliers, in Hollow Way. She had lots of fun with the lads who popped in and out. It was a responsible job for a young teenager with only a couple of part-timers to help. She went to the Oxford Polytechnic School in Cowley Road to do a Pitman's typing course. She told me that during their breaks the girls would make their way to The Excelsior Café, sit on high stools and sip their milk shakes. With wide skirts over stiff, frilly petticoats they thought they were the optimum of sophistication! She stayed at Hopkins for two years during which time she swapped her pedal cycle for a small motorbike. She was in to motorbikes in a big way and remembers the thrill of roaring round the by-pass with no helmet, of course, on a young man's bike at 100 mph.

Whites Bar, The Northgate and the Roebuck were happy venues for her in Oxford when she and Jim were courting. She did have other boyfriends but it was to Jim that she became engaged at nineteen. Her sister took up hairdressing and was apprenticed at "Linda and Avril" in Hollow Way. Netta would go in on Saturdays and help, but also became a willing model for her sister, ending up by the evening

with weird and wonderful hair-dos to say nothing of the various colours.

After Hopkins she got a job in the ledger accounts department at Pressed Steel. Jim worked at Morris' and together they saved up enough to get married in 1968 when Netta was twenty-one. After six months living with Jim's mum in Rupert Road the couple moved into their new bungalow which they were having built at Witney. She stayed on at work until their first baby, Neil, was born in 1971. Being at home didn't stop our "Action lady" from doing things though. She became an Avon lady and an agent for Amway, the cleaning products. Both sets of parents were very supportive so in 1974 when her mum and dad bought a house in Church Hill Road and saw a house on the opposite side of the road for sale she and Jim with little Neil came back to Cowley. A few weeks after the move their second son, Marcus, was born.

While taking her eldest son to school in Bartholomew Road, one day she met up with an old friend from her hairdressing salon days, Chris Woodman, also on the school run. That was over thirty years ago and they have been close friends ever since. Soon Netta found herself volunteering

as a classroom assistant at Church Cowley School and then moved into the school office. Not just clerical work but school productions, stallholder at the fetes, head cook-and-bottle washer on the annual weeks at Hill End Camp, Netta was involved in it all. She worked at the school with six head teachers which I would think is some kind of record.

As her boys grew older they joined the cubs and scouts. Guess who helped with their activities, trips and stays at Youlbury camp – Netta! A little later on Father Keith Haydon and his curate, Simon Grigg, ran a youth club in the old parish hall. Guess who helped with that – Netta!

On top of all her volunteering she spent the last seven years caring for her mum who was very ill with Alzheimer 's disease. Retirement from her post at the school has given her much more time to follow her own interests foremost of these is flower arranging. She belongs to three flower clubs and is also a valued flower lady in St James church (as is her friend Chris). Jim, of course, gets to see more of her these days and one of their greatest pleasures is to take a trip up to London to the theatre or just stroll around exploring.

She describes herself as a lady who lunches as she keeps in touch with her many friends. Slow down? Not likely. I hope you now see what I meant when I described her at the beginning of this article as an action lady.

How would you describe yourself as a small child.

Very easily embarrassed – I used to blush a lot.

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

I remember my little sister having a huge toy monkey with long arms that took over our bed and there was no room for me.

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

I have always admired people who give time to volunteer to help with young people's activities, and that's why I have done the same.

Has your faith been with you since you were young?

Church has had a strong influence. I went to Rose Hill Methodist Church as a child, then both the Methodist and parish churches in Horspath, and I was confirmed. St James Church here has had an influence

on our family and me (both my boys were christened there). It also came into my school working life.

Do you have a treasured possession?

I have got a rose quartz stone given to me by a real native American in a tee-pee. We were in a circle in a kind of spiritual discussion and I was given this stone. I have never been without it since.

What is your opinion of present-day society?

I am an optimist. I know lots of nice people and I believe you reap what you sow. Things have to move forward.

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

Every part of it has been fulfilling.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I like Eastenders, cooking programmes and quizzes on the television. I walk the dogs and we have lovely holidays.

What plans do you have for the future?

My main ambition is to stay in good health.

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



As we look at our country today, or even at our good old Church of England, I am constantly reminded of Charles Dickens' immortal words. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the age of hope, it was the age of despair."

Certainly it was a time of hope at St Francis when we witnessed our young people awaiting confirmation by the Bishop of Oxford. Hope for them in their personal lives, and hope for our church for they are its future. Our little church was packed, the Bishop gave his usual brilliant address and our hearts were filled with joy.

It was a different story later when we learned that our beloved Maggie Giles had finally died of cancer, the scourge of our times, in Sobell House. Maggie loved our little church, she liked to help with the prayers and readings,

she loved the all age services and social times. She

had great affection for Skye, our minister, and respect for the work she is doing. So now we are left shattered and almost in despair. As Christians, we should be glad for her that her pain is now over and she is with the Lord, yet we cannot help thinking why did she have to suffer so much. There is no easy answer to that question.

So our church moves on, as all churches do, with its ups and downs, mirrored in life itself. We can only pray that God will bind us together in love and peace, so that we are better able to cope with these things.

John Shreeve

Most of our generation were HOME SCHOOLED in many ways/cont:

- 7. My father taught me IRONY**
"Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about"
- 8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS**
"Shut your mouth and eat your supper"
- 9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM**
"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
- 10. My mother taught me about STAMINA**
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

MAY MORNING IN OXFORD

It was twenty seven years at least since the last time I got up at some impossible hour on May 1st to take my small son down to Magdalen Bridge to experience May Morning. A few years before that I had taken my daughter and both times there had been silly youngsters jumping into the Cherwell, the weather had been dull and windy and it had been a case of hurrying home to breakfast and time for school.

It was therefore with some misgivings that I volunteered to escort a couple of friends to witness this unique Oxford experience. The said friends live in Australia and had timed their visit to us during a European tour to coincide with 1st May. The weather forecast was not promising so as I stood in the bathroom at 4.30 am and heard the rain on the windowpane I wondered what I had let myself in for. By 5.15 am we were all set for Frank to take us in the car to the bottom of Iffley Road. From there he drove home and Jenny, Paul and I walked across the Bridge and got as near as we could to the foot of Magdalen Tower. The rain turned to a light mist and by 5.30 am it had cleared completely.

The security force and the barricades along the bridge were excellent. The crowds were huge, with people of all ages, bent on enjoying the whole experience. It was obvious that many of the young people had been up all night and had had quite a lot to drink but there was no

unsavoury behaviour and lots of high jinks. I do not quite understand why some of the skimpy outfits of the girls did not result in pneumonia but that's another story! There were balloons, fancy dress outfits and lovely spring like hats to add to the atmosphere. One young man who obviously had no idea how annoying he was, carried a very noisy ghetto blaster around but he was soon told off and sent away with a flea in his ear.

Bang on 6 am the choir sang at the top of the tower – gorgeous. The Latin hymn, the old English madrigals and the final song were relayed by loud-speakers (new to me as last time I went I had not heard a thing). The wind dropped, the sky cleared, the sun came up and people wished each other “Merry May”. The wonderful bells rang out all over the city and we all moved off – approximately 5000 of us – to watch the Morris Men in Radcliffe Square and under the Bridge of Sighs. There were bands and dancers from Queen's Lane to Carfax and speakers on a soapbox in Broad Street.

My visitors loved it as did I and with a full English breakfast at The Mitre for an extremely reasonable price and “gallons” of coffee we caught the bus home in very high spirits. Would anyone like to accompany me to May Morning in 2015?

Rosanne Butler

The Grand Day Out

Saturday 20 September, central Oxford, in and around our cathedral

Updated May 2014

Say goodbye to Bishop John at a very special day for the whole church family

Programme:

10.00 Gather for prayer in Christ Church Meadow*

11.00 Workshops, speakers and activities

12.30 Picnic on Christ Church Meadow (bring your own)

14.00 Workshops, speakers and activities

15.30 Open air worship in Christ Church Meadow*



Events:

Take part in pilgrimage, Messy Fiesta and geo-caching. Hang out, chat and discuss ideas at our 'Living the Difference' café. Let loose your imagination, exploring faith through prayer, the creative arts, contemporary culture, social enterprise, climate change, the natural world, forgiveness and sport. Speakers include Mary Berry, Martyn Percy, Ruth Valerio, Justin Byworth, Emma Bridgewater, Matthew Rice, Gwen Adshead, Andy Gosler and Marian Partington.

*NB This is a change of plan. Wet weather alternatives available if necessary.



The Grand Day Out is FREE but you MUST book as sessions have limited capacity. Details at www.oxford.anglican.org/imaginingfaith Tel: 01865 208200



Thoughts

The impersonal hand of government can never replace the kindly hand of a neighbour

Hubert H. Humphrey

No one needs kindness more than someone who doesn't deserve it.

Anonymous

No act of Kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Aesop

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RECIPES

Haddock, corn and watercress Chowder

4 sticks of celery (chopped)
1lb 12 oz unsmoked haddock
1 litre (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pints) full cream milk
1lb potatoes (peeled and sliced thinly)
About 20 leaves of chives
12 ozs frozen sweetcorn kernels
5 fl oz double cream
About 5 ozs of clean trimmed watercress
2 bay leaves

Lay the bay leaves and the celery in the bottom of a large frying pan. Then lay the haddock on top and pour the milk over. Bring to the boil, simmer for a few minutes and allow to cool.

Cook the potato until very soft in salted water. Mash and add all the liquid from the cooked fish.

Flake the fish making sure to remove any skin and bones

Put the fish and the milky potato in the fridge until you are ready to serve the chowder.

Snip the chives.

Reheat the potato liquor, add the sweetcorn and cook for 3-4 minutes, lower the heat to just below boiling.

Add the fish, remove from heat, stir in the cream, chives, watercress and season with fresh ground black pepper.

Serve hot with cheese and tomato scones.

Cheese and tomato scones
(Best eaten on the day they are made)

9 oz plain flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
A little salt, black pepper and a pinch of dry mustard
2 oz cold butter
4oz Cheddar cheese
3 tablespoons tomato ketchup
2 tablespoons plain yoghurt
About 7 tablespoons milk



Grease a baking sheet and preheat oven to 425 F, 220 C, gas mark 7.

Sift together flour, baking powder and seasonings.

Grate the butter and cheese and stir in by hand.

Blend yoghurt, ketchup and 5 tablespoons of milk.

Mix into dry ingredients (using a little more milk if necessary) to form a soft dough.

On a floured board pat out the dough to a thickness of $\frac{3}{4}$ in (2 cm) and cut into rounds with a 2 in (5 cm) pastry cutter.

Re-use the off-cuts to make more but only once as the dough will toughen.

Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk and grind a little black pepper over the top.

Bake for 12 -15 minutes until well risen and firm

Cool on a rack.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from The Cowley Chronicle, June 1964.

200 years of service to Cowley Children

Recently seven Cowley teachers were presented with awards by the Mayor in gratitude for their long service to the schools of Oxford. All of them have taught for 30 years in this city, and some for considerably longer with other Education Authorities.

From St James School, Miss Bullock was presented with a gold watch. She began teaching at St Christopher's Infants before going to St James. There were three teachers from St Christopher's. Miss Child, the Headmistress of St Christopher's Juniors, was presented with a radiogram. Miss Pawsey in charge of Horspath Road Annexe, received a transistor radio, and an oak rug chest. During her 30 years in Cowley, she was in charge of St Francis Hall before the opening of Horspath Road Annexe and before coming to Cowley she taught in Birmingham. Miss Wood, from St Christopher's Infants, and before that at Stadhampton, was given a Wedgewood tea service.

From temple Cowley Secondary Modern School there were also three teachers, all of whom have been at the school since it opened in 1931. Mr H F Munday, who before going to Temple Cowley was Headmaster of Littlemore School, received a camera and a slide projector. Mr Scott, who when he went to the school was in charge of woodwork and now teaches mathematics, was presented with a camera also, and Miss Axtell now in charge of the senior girls, had items of furniture. Between them, these seven teachers have given more than 200 years service to the children of Cowley. This is, in fact, longer than

there has been a school in Cowley, for the first recorded school was kept by 'a respectable person of the Church of England'.

This perhaps was the school run by a Mrs Quartermain, which the curate paid for 12 children to attend in 1815. It was not until 1834 that the first free school, St James, was founded. By 1851 it had accommodation for 110 pupils and was described as a National School. It was supported by voluntary subscriptions. In 1877, with £700 given by Father Benson, Vicar of Cowley, a new schoolroom for infants was built on a site in Temple (Cowley) Road and in 1884 a new girls' school was built for £800, out of money raised by public subscription. In 1901 the girls and infants were using this school and the boys went to St James. It was not until 1930 under the inspiration of Father Beauchamp, that a new school for infants was built in Temple Road. The present pattern was made possible in 1933, after the building by Oxford City of Temple Cowley Secondary Modern School. St James and St Christopher's then became as they are now, schools for mixed infants and juniors. More recently there has been the building of Church Cowley Primary School and the opening of Horspath Road Annexe.

Private Schools

There were, of course, also the private schools. Of these three became well-known. Cowley College, which was established by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education in 1841 "for the benefit of the middle classes" was housed in the old manor House of Temple Cowley opposite 'The Swan'. A chapel was built in 1870, which can still

be seen just above St Luke's Church. New buildings were added, but in 1876 they were sold to the Oxford Military Academy. This was an establishment to prepare the sons of officers for commissions in the Services, but though it had such patrons as the Dukes of Cambridge and

Connaught, it went bankrupt in 1896. There was also St Kenelm's Anglican School in Temple Road, opened in 1880, but in 1906 this was taken over by a Roman Catholic teaching order and afterwards by the Salesian Fathers.

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2014

The first planning meeting for 'Let's light up Christmas 2014' is set for Monday 2 June, 10:00am in the Ranklin Room. The steering group would welcome new members!

We have festival dates and targets set - 50 trees and £750 each for SeeSaw and ROSY - but no theme and lots of planning to start for the reception, concerts, fun day, quiz trail and visits from the Parish schools.

Come and join us!

Lesley Williams 07982 439 828

ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

The speaker at the May branch meeting was our leader, John Shreeve, who gave a fascinating talk on the world of books. He worked for many years at the Broad Street department of Blackwells in the pre-computer era and told many tales of the famous people and various parts of the world supplied by Oxford's finest bookseller.

We were pleased to welcome a former member of the Cowley branch back to our midst on her retirement from her full-time job. It is good to see our numbers being maintained.

Next month the talk will be about the

experience of one of our members in Australia and New Zealand, replacing the published speaker, Mark Oxbrow, who has been called away on important missionary work abroad.

The Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Day for our branch will be on Thursday, 12th June, at 2.30 pm. We shall meet in St James Church for the programme of prayers and then, as is our usual tradition, enjoy a cup of tea and strawberries and cream in the Church Centre. It is hoped that members will put this date in their diaries and come along otherwise we shall have lots of strawberries and cream left over!

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JUNE

On 3rd June 1937 the Duke of Windsor married Mrs Wallace Simpson in France. The Duke (the abdicated Edward VIII) had been forced to give up his throne in order to marry a divorcee.

Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier made the first human flight in history on 5th June 1783. They were taken by surprise when their hot-air balloon suddenly took off and terrified the on-looking villagers of Annonay in France. The Balloon was powered by burning straw and wool. It rose to about 6000 feet and descended gently and without incident.

James Earl Ray was detained at Heathrow airport on 8th June 1968. He was arrested for the murder of Martin Luther King, the American civil rights leader on 4th April.

The first life insurance policy was sold in London on 18th June 1583.

It was on 19th June 1917 that the British royal family changed its name to Windsor. Its former German family name was deemed to be unpopular as the First World War was still raging.

The popular Gloucestershire author, Laurie Lee, was born on 26th June 1914 exactly 100 years ago.

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
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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
Thursday	8.30am	Morning Prayer— St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James

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.

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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01865 461953
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Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Gordon Hickson
Tel: 07713 688079

Revd Tony Beetham
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Deputy Wardens
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532
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Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

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St Francis Church/St James Church:
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