

Make a difference

We used to live in a society that valued the Bible as “the word of God.” It was a collection of writing that contained “words of life.” It was the number one best seller in the world and everyone in Great Britain, believer or not, knew the stories of the Bible, and carried within them some of the values that gave life balance and meaning. According to theologian Alister McGrath, people thought of the Bible as “a living text that spoke to its readers powerfully, reliably and realistically about the deepest matters of life - such as God, salvation, and heaven.

Things have changed! Lots of people still own a Bible, but fewer people are reading it. Durham University (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/cblc/BriefingSheet2.pdf>) discovered that while 75% of those surveyed admitted that they owned a Bible (85% ownership for those over 45, and 66% for those under 45). Only 18% had read the Bible in the previous week.

83% of respondents could accurately tell something about the Crucifixion and 80% could recount something of the Resurrection. However the report also revealed that a good number of popular New Testament stories were now being forgotten. For example 83% could not say anything correct about the parable of The Sower; 80% knew nothing correct of the story of The Stilling of the Storm; 62% could say nothing correct about the parable of The Prodigal Son; 60% could not say anything accurate about the parable of The Good Samaritan. Complainers of the survey commented that, “these final two are extremely surprising results and more research needs to be done on what is happening here to two stories which have so much capital in Western culture.

One reason that Biblical literacy is falling is the way in which the Bible is used in schools. Even in Church of England schools, the Bible is not always read in a regular or systematic way. This means that Bible knowledge will probably continue to fall and that our children are missing out on what the Bible has to tell them about life.

But don't give up. The answer is close at hand; you could make a difference in the lives of children in Cowley this autumn and winter. The Bible Society offers a great programme that helps primary school children get to know the Bible stories. It's called “Open the Book” which offers themed and dramatised Bible stories at no charge to our schools.

You could be involved. We want to encourage teams of volunteers from our church to get involved by helping to tell Bible stories either by themselves, with others or with the children and staff of the schools. Sessions are only 10 minutes long and are presenting Bible stories in ways that are lively, engaging and informative, so that they are great fun for the whole school.

We have been presenting these stories in schools for the past 2 years and now there is an opportunity to have more people involved. You can do as much as you like as a story teller, presenter, co-ordinator, props master, or costume designer. The possibilities are endless. Training is available - you have all the talent you need to make a difference in the lives of the children of Cowley. If you feel God is calling you to this valuable ministry, or if you would like to find out more, please do get in touch through the Parish Office on 01865 747 680.

HOWARD

Chronicle

September
2014

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Welcome back and congratulations if you are reading your own personal copy of the Chronicle. That means that you followed our advice and got your form and annual subscription to May Morgan before the end of August. If you know anyone who has forgotten to do that or has been lost in Outer Mongolia for the last couple of months then I am sure if you talk nicely to May she will put them on the list for next month.

What a summer it has been! When I wrote to you late in June I wished for the lovely summer days that we were experiencing then to go on and on and throughout July didn't they just? As many of you know I am a football fan so I found the World Cup matches fascinating even after our English team was sent packing. One aspect of the tournament which impressed me (in case you are interested) was the standard of goal-keeping. These solid reliable chaps stand at the back of their teams and when all else fails they, nine out of ten times, rescue the situation. I thought that we've got lots of good "goal-keepers" in our parish. They are the quiet, unassuming people who, when things get a bit frantic or reach the need of a rescuer, step out from between the goal posts and save the situation. Sometimes we forget to give thanks where it is due, so if you can think of one of our helpful "goalies" let's make sure they know they are appreciated.

Then we had the Commonwealth Games. Apart from the marvellous sport, it threw up some great human stories like the athlete from one tiny Pacific island (I forget which) who only had the single runway of their small airport to use as a training track and had to move over if a plane arrived! Also the wonderful team from St Helena in the South Atlantic who, because their island has no airport at all, had to travel by ship for two days to South Africa to take a flight to London. Another flight took them to Glasgow and then, bless their hearts, they made that long journey home with only one medal. It is lovely people like them that often spring to my mind when we pray, in our intercessions, for our brothers and sisters all over God's world.

Not least of our "summer experiences" has been the bombshell delivered to the parish that we are losing our super rector, Howard. I do not want to make this sound like a bereavement because we are resilient people and embrace change with God's help and strength. However it will be a huge loss to Cowley and a great challenge for our PCC to choose the next rector. We must pray for them, mustn't we?

Of course we shall be having a farewell party for Carol and Howard. Someone asked me if we were having a "little" party. "No" was my reply, "we're having a BIG party!" The date and some details are printed later in The Chronicle so put them in your diary. Final plans are still in discussion so watch out for next month's magazine when more will be revealed.

Between now and Christmas we have some pretty big events to look forward to so I hope you are up to it. Apart from four great film clubs, the usual Tuesday and Sunday lunches, Little Stars and Seashells, bingo sessions, cafes at the Centre and coffee at Don Bosco Close, there is even more. First there is Ride and Stride Day (are you riding, striding or sponsoring?) coupled with our Open Doors day when we welcome people from far and wide to our churches. Next it will be (sob) Howard's last service followed by the farewell party. In November we are holding a commemorative concert to honour the brave of the First World War. There is more about this later in the magazine. The popular craft fair held each year for parish funds comes next and the week after that St Francis' wonderful Caribbean evening. Then to round off the year our huge Christmas Tree Festival will be held in St James Church and centre with one of our family fun days added in for good measure. Phew! At least we are not going to have time to get bored.

Before I write again we shall be celebrating our harvest which, I understand, has this year been a bumper one so we have much to say thank you for. Aren't we lucky?

God bless

Rosanne

Film Club at the Centre

Film club in August saw the biggest audience yet and, wow, what an evening we enjoyed. Several members brought along guests who were most impressed with our Church Centre and the standard of catering and film presentation. As ever Chris Woodman and Margaret Weller were our stalwarts in the kitchen and Pat Curtis stood in at the last minute as our projectionist. Despite a couple of hiccups with the computer the film "Oklahoma!" was thoroughly enjoyed especially the wonderful singing and, of course, a happy ending. Talking of happy endings this month the club made a profit of £104, a record for us.

The film for the September club night is the very British production of "Quartet". Its stars include Maggie Smith, Tom Courtenay, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon. It has a 12 and over certificate and had very high ratings from the critics when it was released in 2012.



St James Graveyard

The Oxfordshire Family History Society Graveyard CD. and some pictures from it, will be on display at the next monthly cafe on Saturday 27 September. Come and have a look and a cup of coffee or tea with a delicious slice of cake.

Sheila Tree

KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves

Dance Based Keep Fit Class with Barbara

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www.keepfit.org.uk

Poem

I'm still not sure

My dad walked dreamy-eyed from chore to chore
toiling from sun to moon.

I walked beside him wondering where he was,
sought phrases that might reach into
his silence,
make him talk to me.

One afternoon he joined our game of scrub
In the shadowed cool
behind the shed.

He pitched with easy grace
relaxed and present in the game.
I stood at bat.
The ball came hard.
I checked my swing.

The ball smashed into my face
numb at first
until heat spread, stinging, throbbing.
I felt lips thicken, press against my teeth.

He loped toward me
game forgotten as he held me
brushed the hair out of my eyes
gingerly touched my cheek.
"I didn't mean to."
The game was over.

I'm still not sure
if I didn't step into the ball.

Reprinted from Mudville Diaries, Avon Books

Carol Thornton

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The scandal of grace (God's Amazing Gift)
by Selwyn Hughes

This title is meant to shock us, and bring us up short, and so it does. For we know that God's grace can never be a scandal. The author maintains that it is our misunderstanding, our misinterpretation, and our unwillingness to pray for and use this free gift that is the real scandal.

We have no compunction about asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit, but we hesitate to ask for the gift of Grace though it is equally important. The Holy Spirit is our guide and comforter, the grace empowers us, strengthens us, and enables us to cope with any situations.

St Paul speaking of his successful mission to the Greeks, qualifies it by saying:

Yet not I, but God's grace working through me, has achieved this.

Selwyn Hughes has a long and creditable history as a wise Christian advisor and counsellor and I would back his judgement anywhere.

There is much to learn in this book and it is impossible to condense it all into a few lines. In these recent times when our Christian beliefs have come under fire from so many quarters, any spiritual resource that we can use must be really important.

So I do not hesitate to commend this book to you.

John Shreeve

FLOWER OF THE MONTH – MONTBRETIA

Although the common name of the flower is montbretia modern gardeners and certainly garden centres now-a-days tend to use their smarter name – crocosmia. This is rather a pity as its original title harks right back to Antoine Francois Ernest Conquebert de Montbret, one of the botanists who accompanied Napoleon on his expedition to conquer Egypt in 1798. Montbret together with a fellow botanist began by studying the sacred lotus flower. Redouté, the famous painter of botanical studies, especially roses, painted for them. Between them they created a botanical garden in Cairo, even adding a menagerie of exotic animals. At that moment in history the British fleet stepped (or sailed) in attacking the French. Napoleon and his troop fled to France and left the botanists stranded.

Finally after much negotiation they were allowed to return home with a shipment of plants. Lord Nelson, who led the British fleet, was said to have admired the pluck of the botanists and painter and gave them a safe voyage. That is how the montbretia arrived in Europe. Their original country of origin is South Africa. They are in fact a hybrid of crocosmias and tritonias and were established as a new plant by the famous French plant breeder Lemoine in 1880. They soon found their way into English gardens where they flourished. They even found their way over garden walls into the wild where again in many parts of the country they have become prolific.

William Burchell, an eccentric English plant explorer, “found” the original wild crocosmia growing in South Africa. He gave up his post as a school teacher and travelled round South Africa in a covered wagon drawn by oxen flying the British flag. He took no notice of warnings about dangerous territories and insisted on journeying alone. He would stop from time to time to enchant the native Africans with his flute playing. Because he was so bizarre he was never attacked. He kept a diary of the many plants he found, such as the crocosmia, also including in it the best way to cook an ostrich egg.

Our flower this month is a sturdy fellow which spreads where it wants. It is especially at home in poor sandy soil, thrives in dry conditions and loves the sun. Its bright orange sprays add good colour to our autumn gardens and should not be dismissed as a wild plant. In the past it was a prized find.



DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

Meeting 15th September 2014

Speaker: Howard Thornton

Women's Institute

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

St James Church Centre

Meeting 17th September 2014 Speaker: Dee
Sinclair, former Lord Mayor of Oxford

St James Café at St James Church Centre

10am—1pm

The last Saturday of each month

Next open on Saturday 27 September 2014

Coffee, Cake and Communion

Once a month, every third Tuesday, 10.30 a.m.

With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco

Close (Tel: 434160)

Film Club

Friday, 12 September 2014, commencing at
6.30 pm with coffee and cake

"Quartet"

St James Church Centre

Ride 'n Stride) Saturday 13 September 2014

Open Doors) 10am—6pm

at both churches

Farewell to Bishop John

Saturday, 20th September 2014 10 am – 5 pm

Sign the forms which are in both churches if
you wish to attend

Wine, Cheese and Poetry Evening

Friday, 26th September 2014 – 7 pm

St James Church Centre

Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 12 October 2014 - 12.15 pm

St Francis Church

Howard and Carol's Farewell Party

Friday, 17th October 2014

St Francis Church 7 pm

A Concert of Commemoration

St James Church

8th November 2014 – 7 pm

Christmas Gifts and Craft Fair

Saturday, 15th November 2014

St James Church Centre 10 am – 2 pm

A Caribbean Evening

Friday, 21st November 2014, at 7pm

St Francis Church

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2014 – De-
cember 2014

See detailed programme in The Chronicle

*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.

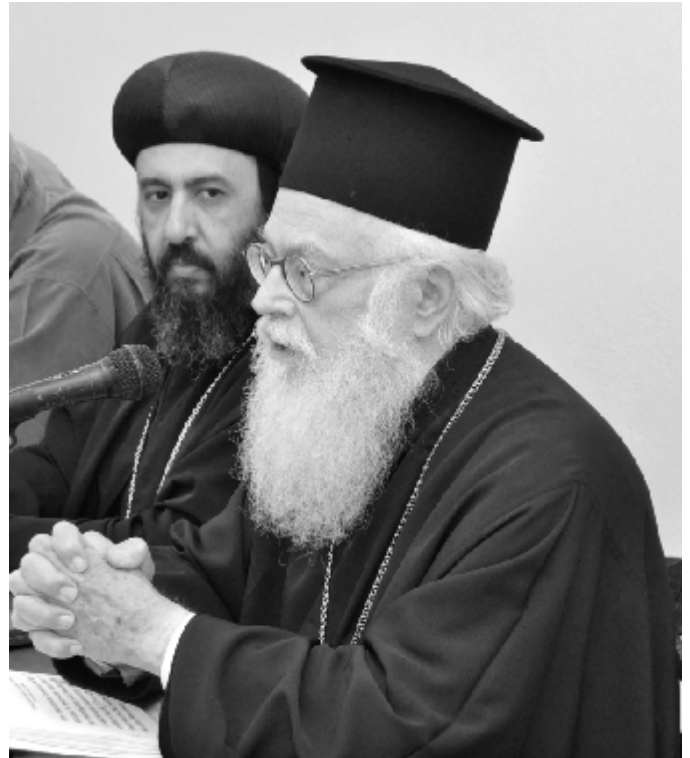
If you enjoy baking and would like to help by
baking a cake 2 or 3 times a year on a rota
basis Chris Woodman or Margaret Weller
would be pleased to hear from you.

Once we were enemies

When I was very young, as good Anglicans, we used to walk fearfully past the Catholic church in town because they did strange things in there and worshiped Mary. Then one day my parents told me I was going to go to a Roman Catholic secondary school! I'm not sure whether I had even heard of Orthodox Christians back then; if I had I am sure I would have been even more cautious of them. Even Baptists were regarded as 'the opposition' by most people in my local Anglican church.

Thankfully the world has changed. I survived my Catholic schooling; in fact I thrived at St. Joseph's College and formed life-long friendships with Catholic believers. For my 60th birthday I had a joint party with a Catholic 'boy' that I was at school with back then. Then, in 1991 the Evangelical mission agency I was working for, CMS, sent me off to Eastern Europe (just after the Berlin Wall came down) to start building positive relationships with Orthodox Christians. Now some of my best friends are Orthodox.

All this is a way of asking for your prayers. From 15 to 19 September I will be in Albania as the facilitator of a consultation between 60 Orthodox and Evangelical leaders. This is part of the ministry of Faith2Share. I looked at the list of names today and noticed that we have six archbishops, numerous bishops and five professors coming. In fact almost everyone seems to have something other than Mr. or Ms. in front of their name! So now you see why I am asking for prayer! More seriously though, I



am asking you to pray because so many tensions still exist around the world – even between Christians. While fighting continues in Gaza we will have Palestinian and Jewish Christians with us. In Serbia and other Balkan states it is not so easy for Christians to get on with each other. We need time and patience, grace and forgiveness, before we can really understand each other and work together as Christians for a better world.

In the picture you can see (on the right) Archbishop Anastasios who will be our host for this week in Albania.

Mark Oxbrow

Faith2Share

(f2s@faith2share for more information)

Cowley at the turn of the Twentieth Century

(from Nan Davies' memoirs)

During the First World War Cowley Road Workhouse as it was then known, the Examination School and several other places were turned into Hospitals and it was pitiful to see wounded walking and being pushed around. There are still victims surviving today, some still in hospital and make the poppies that we buy each year.

At long last it was over, but now Garsington Road had rails on the right-hand side where little trucks took the mines up to the station to go direct to France. From then on Cowley began to alter in so many ways. The Poor Law School had been closed where young boys from broken homes or orphans were housed, but had to start right away earning their keep by cleaning, gardening, and any other work they were able to do. That is where the nice Pressed Steel building stands today. It used to have a big sandpit where the sand martins made their homes. They bored hundreds of holes in the huge bank and it was one of our favourite walks on a Sunday night to go and watch them popping in and out, and marvellous to us that they would know their own hole.

There used to be lots of men on the roads then, usually called tramps. They were not allowed to beg, but could come and ask for water. I remember one old man who would bring an old tin. It had a hole on either side and a piece of string tied across it so he could carry it. He would ask if we could spare some boiling water with a spec of tea in it. My mother would say "come back in 5 minutes while I hot it", and when he came back she would have put in tea, sugar and a drop of milk if he liked that. One Sunday he turned up just as we were finishing dinner. He came as usual for the water, but my mum cut off a slice of meat from our little joint and put it between two thick slices of bread. I can still picture his face today as he saw it. About $\frac{3}{4}$ hour later a gentle knock on the door to say another thank you and added 'First meat I've tasted since I was in the big house last winter', meaning of course the Workhouse where they were allowed to stay a little while, but had to chop wood, carry coal, do gardening or anything they were told to do. There were others who would sing in the streets to get a few coppers. We are a much richer world, and still not satisfied (pity).

Comment

I was interested in the Nan Davies article on finding work in the summer. My father's family were mostly college servants, chefs and carvers and such like. Each summer when the University went down, these men went to the South Coast where work was waiting for chefs and carvers. They worked all summer and then came back to their College jobs. One lady was pregnant when her husband was going away and he gave her a sovereign to last her for the new baby and the family until he returned four or five months later. That lady was the richest woman in Cowley

My father was born in 1901, two days before Queen Victoria died and his stories of life in Cowley village were fascinating.

Una Dean

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A couple had just arrived at their holiday destination collected their swimming costumes and stretched out on the beach. Suddenly the wife sat up and screamed “Oh, no” she gasped “I’ve just realised I forgot to turn off the oven before we left”. “Don’t worry” came the husband’s reply “I’ve just remembered I left the bath tap running so the house won’t burn down”.

FAREWELL GIFT FOR THE

THORNTON FAMILY: envelopes are available for your contribution towards a gift for Howard and the family (cheques to Cowley (Oxford) PCC)

FAREWELL PARTY: Friday, 17 October, 7:00-10:00pm. A barn dance with ploughman’s supper. Please bring a cake or dessert. Dress code - red and white. This is a ticketed event for catering and space reasons

CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 19 September 2014

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

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

LOVE IS KIND

Jesus replied,
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart
And with all your soul
And with all your mind.”
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it:
“Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Matthew 20:37-39

I went to the Elder Stubbs Festival and met a poet!

The Elder Stubbs Festival was on August 16th. The weather was kind and enjoyed by three thousand souls (according to the Oxford Mail) My son and grandchildren came and heartily enjoyed the pizzas cooked in the mobile wood burning oven, the pony rides, swing boats, candy floss and the enormous, paper mache crocodile with rather large teeth that menacingly lurked. The Restore Charity decided to have the theme of Peter Pan this year on this their major annual fund-raiser, so we saw the odd pirate and Tinkerbell around. We enjoyed the music which this year included a ukulele band and the rocking Mighty Redox.

It has been a good year, on the whole, for crops on the allotments but it is always a struggle to find items to enter in the Vegetable Show. I did come away with a First for the heaviest pumpkin but when only two are entered it is rather disappointing that so many other allotment holders don't add to the fun by entering as well. However, when looking at the exhibits, I noticed a poem pinned to the wall. As I was reading it, the author, Fran Deacon, was standing just by me. She very kindly said I could put it in the Chronicle, and that she will be including it in a book of her poetry that she is currently working on.

THE GARDEN OF EARTHY DELIGHTS!

Come all ye lads and lassies!
Forsake those bars and clubs
Pull on those Hunter wellies –
Get down to Elder Stubbs!!
There's everything to go for -
(Now't like a well turned clod)
Get weeding, raking, sowing -
You'll feel renewed, by God!
All human life you'll find there
Plus hens and dinosaurs –
No limit to the wonders
Of allotment life out- doors!
Now Phil is in the driving seat
To welcome every grower
And F1 has no equal to
This lad upon his mower –
So set those bonfires blazing -
Make sure you do it well!
Then exclaim 'It's Elder Stubbs!'
And get watering like hell!

Fran Deacon©2014

So, thank you, Fran for your observations on us, “the labouring poor of Cowley” working on the land that was given to us in the 1840’s. The two fields were recompense for the much larger area of land, previously used by Cowley folks on Shotover, that was enclosed and barred from our forebears. By the way, I don’t recollect anyone wearing Hunter wellies. We are the labouring poor after all!

Joan Coleman

THE SONG THAT KEPT A MILLION SOLDIERS MARCHING

Before the beginning of World War One Britain had seen the Music Halls flourish. What began as an added attraction to the ale houses and inns of the East End of London grew and grew from a few entertainers singing and playing in dingy back rooms into the opening of grand theatres with café-bars, promenade areas leading to smart boxes and impresarios and musical directors. One of these grand theatres built at the turn of the twentieth century was the London Coliseum. Its musical director was a man named Alfred Dove. There was a huge drive in August 1914 to lift the morale of the enlisted troops by raising money for their comfort and for sending them off to war with the warmest of wishes from the folks back home. To the forefront of all of this were the London Music Halls.

Alfred Dove was looking for some new material to boost a show he was putting on at The Coliseum which was billed as “A Grand Patriotic Chorus of 1000 Voices”. What he really wanted was a song in which his audience could join. He came across one which had been written only two years earlier and had been sung, without orchestration, by the great Florrie Forde, one of the most popular artistes of the time. “The Daily Mail” had reported that the Irish regiment of the Connaught Rangers had taken it up as their marching song. Dove heard it and knew straight away that, with the proper orchestration, it would be a winner. “It’s a Long Way to Tipperary” was the right song for the moment and became one of the favourite marching songs of soldiers for generations.

An elderly gentleman was sitting opposite a young lady on a long train journey. She noticed that he was mumbling to himself and he would raise his hand every now and then. After a while she asked politely the significance of this. “Ah” he told her “You see I get bored on a long journey so I tell myself jokes to keep myself amused, but when I’ve heard the joke before I raise my hand to cut off the punch line”.

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2014



Let's light up Christmas with 'ANGEL DELIGHT'!

We look forward to being amazed at the imaginative, creative interpretation of that theme – with the church full of heavenly hosts among the 50 Christmas trees.

Here are the Festival dates and opening times to put in your diary now and to share with friends, family and any groups to which you belong. This month we will begin to sign up schools, churches and groups to be part of the event, both with decorated trees, craft and music, dance and drama performances for daily mini-concerts. If you know any individuals or groups who can be approached to join us, please pass on contact details below.

DECEMBER 2014

Wednesday 3rd – 5th

Friday 5th

from Saturday 6th

weekends:

weekdays:

Saturday 6th

Wednesday 10th

Saturday 13th

Sunday 14th

Week beginning 15th

set up

6 pm reception – personalised invitations

public opening

Saturdays 6th and 13th: 10.00-4.00; Sundays 7th and 14th:
2.00-4.00

Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th, Thursday 11th: 2.00-4.00

with mini-concert and tea party each afternoon

7.00 concert

6.30-8.30 with mini-concert and refreshments

10.00 family fun day

4.30 closing carol service

But trees staying in the church over the festive season

Christmas experience: schools groups visiting for a structured programme, based on specific trees

JANUARY 2015

Friday 2nd

take down

We will again have support from Templars Square and are hoping that our friends from 'Churches together in Cowley' will be actively involved this year, to provide extra stewards during opening times.

Lesley Williams 07982 439 828

ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

MEMORIES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Like many other families in the land, the Shreeve family in Kent were totally committed to the cause of the war. Three of the brothers, Charlie, George and Hubert, enlisted in the army fairly early on - Charlie and George into the Royal West Kent Regiment and Hubert into the Army Service Corps. Miraculously they all served their full term and all survived unscathed to return home safely.

Charlie turned out to be a crack shot, and was soon in the thick of it on the Western Front. George served partly in France but also in the Middle East. Hubert, because he held a very early driving licence, was assigned to driving Officers around. He eventually secured the job of being the personal driver to General Allenby, one of the key figures in Egypt. In this role he saw a great deal of a number of countries in the near East and met some interesting figureheads. Hubert also saw a prototype of one of the earliest

tanks to be used.

His worst time was at Gallipoli which was a real blood bath where many servicemen lost their lives. Strangely, he nearly died not from bullet wounds, but from drinking infected water. He was saved by the selfless act of an unknown soldier who somehow found him a mug of milk in the midst of the battlefield which helped him to pull round.

Hubert and George were both present at the relief of two biblical towns from the Turks. George was at Bethlehem and Hubert at Damascus. A picture of Hubert at the wheel of Allenby's Rolls Royce car, with his pith helmet on, appeared in the press with the caption "relief of Damascus". None of these brothers would speak of their experiences, it was just as if they wanted to forget it all!

Marlene Shreeve

(Many apologies to Marlene for not including this article in our last edition)

Cowley Women's Institute

The WI meetings are held in the Church Centre on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on 17th September at 2 pm after the August summer break. We would be very pleased to welcome new members and would like to welcome anyone who is interested to come along and "see what we do".

The speaker this month will be the former Lord Mayor of Oxford, Dee Sinclair, so that should make for an interesting meeting.

Jean Chilton

Rosanne interviews Roz Ware

For the last twelve months Roz has been learning about Cowley and she really likes what she sees. As far as I can gather the only problem she has is parking her car in an almost impossible space outside her house even though the landlord says it is possible!

As a result of having a highly intelligent daughter, Chrissie, who gained a place at Oxford University and also being the grandmother to Chrissie's small baby son Jasper, Roz made the decision to come to Oxford to support her daughter and help look after her little grandson. So that is what brought her into our midst. Whilst her daughter is reading for her psychology degree at St Catherine's College Roz will be kept busy taking and fetching Jasper to and from nursery and bringing him to church, Seashells and all the other activities in which she is now involved, not least of these is singing in St James choir.

She is one of a large family of six children, she being the fourth. Her father was a curate when she was born. He took on the ministry of a parish soon after and, as is the usual procedure with the clergy, moved on several times during Roz's early life. Most of her childhood was spent in Portsmouth, an area which holds her affection. Her early school years were spent in

Leicester. The infant and primary school experiences there were very happy ones but at seven years of age came the move to Portsmouth. Then life became a struggle probably mainly due to the development of a condition which plagues her to this day. It is called fibromyalgia and causes constant joint and muscle pain. Coping with this from day-to-day, unable to take part in school sports and other disturbances in her life made everything very difficult for her. She particularly wanted to play tennis and sadly seldom could.

The disturbances in her home life worried her. She disliked the way her father belittled her mother's nursing career but worse than this was the gradual realisation that he was being unfaithful and getting involved in extra-marital affairs.

Life was not all sadness, however, because she joined the Brownies, then went on to Guiding and simply loved it. She made real friends and told me about happy days camping on the Isle of Wight and even on one Easter camp waking up to snow on the ground. The Guide she was camping with then is still a close friend. The other love of her life is singing and she joined the church choir and then went on to sing in Portsmouth Cathedral (voluntary) choir. Asked about

the word "voluntary" she informed me that the choir of men and boys were paid but her choir was not!

Her father left the ministry and became a school teacher, also giving private piano lessons. Roz and each of her brothers and sisters were taught to play. In spite of the advantage of learning to read music actually practising was a nightmare in the family home. Can you imagine the dilemma of six children having to fit the use of one piano around school homework in the evenings!?

After leaving primary school at eleven Roz went to a good private school and despite her pains and home problems she managed to gain a clutch of good "O" levels. However after one year into Sixth Form College she left school and entered the world of work. She found a place working as a civil servant at the Naval Base in Portsmouth's dockyard. And at about the same age (seventeen) she fell in love with a young man she met in the Cathedral choir. He was her first boyfriend. Five years later she married Bob not knowing at the time that he had Asperger's syndrome. Home life became "rocky" (as she described it) due to his mood swings. However, Roz was thrilled to find herself pregnant with her first baby. Bill was born in

1991 and two years later along came Chrissie. To add to her difficult life she soon found that both her children had inherited Asperger's too. They are, though, highly intelligent people!

Bob was totally uninterested in his children and was letting Roz down in many ways, mainly financial. Matters reached a point where the only way forward that she could see was to move out taking the children with her. Luckily her mother (now separated from her father) owned an empty house so the family moved in and divorce proceedings went ahead. After a while her mother decided that the house needed some redecoration and TLC and sent Trevor round to deal with it. Roz by this time was into her third year of a degree course. She was commuting up to London and then began a relationship with her skilled contractor, Trevor. They married in 2003. Everything went well for a while and he was very good with the children. However after three years together again Roz had to face a broken marriage. One source of happiness for her was her singing. At sixteen she had taken singing lessons, begun to sing in festivals and perform as a solo artiste. A friend, the lady who had run the choir in Portsmouth, Rosemary Field, had moved to St Stephen's Church in Westminster. She phoned Roz and invited her to join her London choir. This took up her whole time on a Sunday

and it was on one of these journeys that she had her disastrous car accident about which she wrote several months ago for The Chronicle.

Chrissie, her daughter, by now was doing extraordinarily well at school, so well that encouraged by her mum she applied for Oxford University and gained a place. By this time, though, she was about to give birth to her baby and this is the point where we came in. They arrived in Cowley, renting a house big enough for a nursery and Roz looked around for a church. About a year ago she found St James, discovered a choir and a warm welcome and stayed. She told me she has made lots of friends and that, led by Mark Porter; choir practice is the highlight of her week. After all her ups and downs it is lovely to hear her voice in the choir and also her infectious giggle when her highly developed sense of humour is tickled.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Blonde and curly – really shy (RB – you'd never guess!)

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

In Leicester we lived in a vicarage in a very run-down estate with a car park next to it. The church

was on the opposite side. Some people had set a car on fire and pushed it up to the wall of the church. I was very little and scared. It was, for a long time, a recurring nightmare.

Has there been anyone who has been an influence in your life?

Yes, Kathryn Dykes. She was a friend at school and at Guides. She is two years older than me. We were very close and she has been my constant support.

Has your faith been part of your life since you were a child?

I think I was about seven when I told my next eldest sister, Hilary, that I had God in my heart.

What is your opinion of modern society?

I think life for young people is harder now than it was for me and my generation.

If you could change something in a big way what would it be?

I would make myself financially secure.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I read – books about positive mental attitudes, and I sing.

Plans for the future?

I want to develop my network marketing business. I want to get a house of my own and (with a smile) own an elephant!

SAINT OF THE MONTH — Peter Claver

It is unusual to encounter a saint who does not have St. before his or her name. However Peter Claver was canonized in 1888 and declared patron of all missionary enterprises concerning Negroes because of the work he carried out in the 16th and 17th centuries on their behalf. His feast day is 9th September.

Peter was born in Spain in 1580, the son of relatively well-off parents who could afford to fund his education at Barcelona University. At the age of 20 he embraced the Jesuit faith and went to study at Palma where he met a lay brother named Alphonsus Rodriguez. This man, though leading a simple way of life was a good counsellor and when Peter confided in him a desire to do missionary work Alphonsus listened and encouraged him. He had heard about the New World now opening up to trade and settlers and had made up his mind that it was there that God was calling him. He went back to Barcelona to study theology and in 1615 was ordained as a priest. He was living in Cartagena (now Columbia) which at that time was one of the principle centres for the flourishing slave trade. Slaves were being stolen from their native homes in Angola and parts of West Africa.

The slaves were being shipped over in huge numbers under unspeakable conditions. Peter's heart was moved by their plight and joined forces with an elderly fellow priest who had already been trying to comfort these poor wretches for over 40 years. When a slave ship arrived the slaves were penned up in the heat of the day with no food, water or care of any kind. Peter enlisted a band of helpers who would, with the help of interpreters, take them medicine, food, brandy, lemons and tobacco. Using

pictures and a few words Peter would teach the slaves the Christian message and tried to instil in them a sense of dignity and self-worth despite their dreadful plight. He even baptised many of them before they were taken off to work in the mines and plantations. He visited them regularly nursing them when no-one else cared much to the disapproval of their masters. He used to call himself "the slave of the negroes forever".

This did not prevent him from working, caring for souls, with other members within the society. He ministered to traders and visitors to Cartagena (including Moslems and Protestants from England); also to condemned criminals and other prisoners. He spent hours with the sick in the city's hospitals and every autumn he took a mission to the traders and seamen in the port. He was hard upon himself often observing severe personal penance and thus it was that whilst visiting a Negro area he was taken ill. Although he did not die he became partly paralysed. He was only able to leave his cell for short visits to the hospital or to visit friends. Sadly the young man who was given the responsibility for caring for him became neglectful and Peter only lived for four more years. Although the authorities frowned on his activities during his lifetime calling him misguided and indiscreet they finally acknowledged his devoted service and arranged a special funeral. His friends, the Negroes and native Indians organised a special Mass of their own to honour him. His name to this day is revered in many parts of Latin America and the United States. Peter Claver, patron of missionaries and apostle of the Negroes.

A CONCERT OF COMMEMORATION

Before Howard knew that he was leaving to take up his new post in Canada he decided that a most appropriate way to commemorate the brave of World War One would be a concert of music. He booked the Jubilee Brass Band for 8th November to play in St James Church. This is the evening before Remembrance Sunday, when the band will also play for the 10 o'clock morning worship.

He has recruited me to help with details of the concert as, sadly, he will have left us by then. Naturally I am only too pleased to help. I have already met with Ken Membury, the band's director, to select suitable music. Howard had in mind that the first half of the concert would be mainly patriotic music to reflect the mind-set of those who joined the conflict and that the second half would remind us of the things they left behind, the happy times, girl-friends and wives, singing, dancing and home. We intend to end the concert with a sing-song of some of the tunes that kept these brave souls hanging on. To add to the programme we are choosing suitable readings, mainly poetry, since there are many beautiful words which will enhance the music.

We do hope that you will come to the concert and enjoy our tribute to all who helped to bring a fragile peace to our country.

Rosanne



HOW IS YOUR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE?

Each month we are going to challenge our readers to identify a Cowley landmark.

Our roving photographer, Les Hemsworth, will choose a local view to get you thinking.

Answer next month.

*Last month's answer:
Roses Hill Cemetery
(Water Tap)*



FAMOUS HYMNS AND THEIR STORIES

“HOW GREAT THOUGH ART”

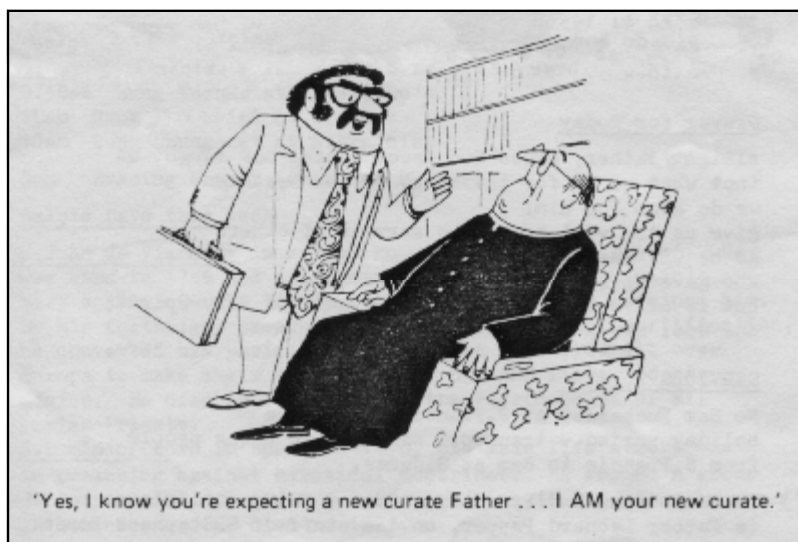
As I re-read the background of this well-loved hymn I felt that it was little short of a miracle that it ever found its way into our English hymn books.

It is the result of a double translation from Swedish into English, via Russian. Generally known by the words of its chorus as “How Great Though Art”, it is the work of the British missionary and evangelist Stuart Hine.

The original Swedish poem on which the hymn is based was written by Carl Boberg, an evangelist, journalist and Member of Parliament. Boberg was converted to evangelical Christianity at the age of nineteen and went to Bible School. He returned to his native town as a preacher and it was there in 1886 that he wrote his nine verse poem – “O Store Gud”. He was moved to hymn God’s greatness one summer evening as he stood looking across the calm waters of the Mönsterås inlet. A rainbow had formed following a storm in the afternoon, and a church bell was tolling in the distance. Although

Boberg’s verses appeared in several Swedish hymn books, they seem to have disappeared in the 1920s. They were however translated into a number of other languages. In 1927 a Russian version appeared in a hymn book. It was this version which Stuart Hine heard being sung in the Ukraine where he had gone as a missionary in 1923. The hymn made a considerable impression on Hine. He wrote the first three verses of ‘O Lord My God’ while engaged in evangelistic work in the Carpathian Mountains. Hine wrote the fourth verse of his hymn when he returned to Britain in 1948. He published both the Russian and the English versions of this hymn in his Gospel magazine – ‘Grace and Peace’ in 1949. It rapidly caught on in Evangelical Circles in both Britain and the United States. It turns a Christian’s eyes upon God – rather than himself. In our modern times this little gem has become very popular nationwide and rightly so. It is sung to the Swedish folk melody to which Boberg’s verses were set in 1891.

John Shreeve



NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

Our church has recently undergone a complete renovation of its outer fabric, which was finished to a high standard by Dave Stanley, one of our Church Wardens. We are grateful to him for all the hard work he put into it under often hot weather conditions. So our building not only looks good, but should be protected against wind and weather for some time to come.

We are grateful also to Lyn and David Lord who kindly opened up their house and garden for our Summer Garden party, which was a great success. It was well supported by members of both our churches, who all felt that it was a very happy and enjoyable occasion. Through it we were able to raise some £140 towards our kitchen refurbishment at St Francis.

The resignation of Howard, our Team Rector, has thrown the whole parish into a period of change and upheaval. We are already putting into place measures that should ensure that

his replacement takes place as soon as possible.

However, we have to face the fact that we are looking at a longish period when we will be without our parish rector, and much of the extra responsibility of the parish will fall on Skye's shoulders as our Team Vicar. We need to hold her in our prayers, and also pray that those responsible will make the right decision in appointing Howard's successor.

Future events of interest include our Harvest Festival, Ride and Stride and Open Doors, Howard's Farewell party and eventually our Patron Saint's Day at St Francis. Help and support will be needed for all those occasions and we hope that extra people will be willing to come forward.

John Shreeve



SMOOTHIE HATS

Calling all our keen and talented knitters – it is that time of year again. For the last few years the ladies of the parish have knitted hundreds of little hats for the smoothie drinks sold by Sainsbury's supermarkets. Smoothies with hats raise huge amounts of money to support the charity Age UK. Joyce Titchell is the person who collects these creative little hats and passes them on to the appropriate source. She tells me that she is sure that the ladies who knit will have the necessary patterns from last year but to let her know if not. The little hats need to reach her by the first week in October. I can almost hear the click of needles already.

Talking of the click of needles Joyce also mentioned that she is still pleased to take delivery of any tiny baby vests and jackets for the children in the desperate areas of Africa. So please do keep going with those needles.

News from the Bell Tower

You will probably have noticed the lack of bells throughout August. As so many of our ringers were away, we were unable to provide any service ringing from the beginning of the month. From September we should be ringing more regularly again, and our Thursday night practices will be resuming as of the 4th September. Those of us who have been around over the summer have not been idle though. We have rung for weddings at Cowley, and two of us have helped with ringing at two Wolvercote weddings as well. This was slightly daunting the first time, as the ringing chamber is not closed off from the church as it is in Cowley, so we were in full view of the congregation. We ringers tend to be a little shy and retiring, so to try and concentrate while people suddenly produced lots of cameras and snapped pictures of us was a new experience!

In August I reached the milestone of half a century, and wanted to do something to mark the occasion, so decided to approach some of our helpful ringing friends from Marston and Iffley to ask if they would help me ring a quarter peal at Cowley. They were only too happy to help, so on Thursday 14th August the attempt was made. The ringers were Charlotte and myself from Cowley, Hugh and Judy from Marston, Susan from Iffley and Colin from Headington. It was my first quarter peal on an inside bell, Charlottes first ever attempt, and Colin's second, so there was lots of worry about going wrong and failing the attempt. A quarter peal has lots of rules, it has to involve a

set number of changes in the ringing pattern – at least 1280 – and lasts about 45 minutes.

We prayed the weather would not be too hot and that no one needed to sneeze! We were fortunate on both counts, and with lots of help from Hugh, who is our Branch Ringing Master, the attempt was successful. Special mention has to be made of the heroic way that Charlotte, with her eyes closed as they had begun to hurt from sweat, managed to finish without going wrong once. We celebrated with champagne and cake.

There were many other ringing opportunities over the summer. Iffley have continued to give us a warm welcome, and lots of help and advice at their practice nights. We have visited Wootton by Woodstock, which have a truly lovely set of bells, set in a ringing chamber with a steeply sloping floor. A trip to Yarnton was very interesting, to ring on their very heavy bells, and I also had the chance to ring in the lovely church at Eynsham. Most Sundays throughout August I was making up the numbers for St Giles in Oxford, who were very short of ringers. This is a lovely ring of eight, which were a real pleasure to ring on, and I was really happy to be able to give something back to the ringing community which has helped us so much.

As always, if you would be interested in finding out more, you can drop in to a practice on a Thursday between 7.30 – 9pm, or call me on Oxford 777486.

Lindsay Powell

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

It was on 3rd September 1939 that World War Two began. Britain and France declared war on Germany when Hitler ignored their call to pull out of Poland once he had sent troops to invade that country.

In 1666 the Old St Paul's Cathedral went up in flames as the Great Fire of London raged through the City on 4th September. The six acres of lead from its roof melted and poured down the narrow streets in torrents. Thirty-four other London churches were destroyed that day. People took to boats and barges on the Thames to escape the inferno resulting in very little loss of life. Wren's beautiful cathedral which still stands today was built on the ruins of the first.

Horace Walpole, Britain's first prime minister, moved into 10 Downing Street on 22nd September, 1736. From that day forward "Number 10" has been the official residence of all British prime ministers.

On 23rd September 1846 the planet Neptune was discovered. Neptune takes 165 years to orbit the sun. If you could drive a car at 70 mph towards Neptune it would take 4,500 years to get there.

Somewhere there should be a big stick of rock with the date 25th September running through the middle as it was on this date in 1891 that the foundation stone for Blackpool Tower was laid.

Nicknamed "Peelers" or "Bobbies" after the Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, the first police force in Britain came into being on 29th September 1829. The Metropolitan Police Force in London had 1,200 officers at that time.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from The Cowley Chronicle, March 1975.

St Bartholomew's Chapel



Apart from Cowley's old Parish Church of St James, the oldest surviving buildings locally are the remains of the old Leper Hospital of St Bartholomew, off the Cowley Road. The famous 17th Century Oxford antiquarian, Anthony Wood, recorded some of its early history.

"On the east side of Oxon, a quarter of a mile distant from St Clements (then at the Plain, of course – Ed.) was anciently a pleasant coppice or grove, situated on the ascent of a little hill. Which for its vicinity to Oxon and its agreeableness for devotion occasioned Henry the I to erect a chapel to the memory of St Bartholomew, and some edifices adjoining for leprous folk. Over these diseased folk the said King appointed a chaplain who was to govern them, and both he and they to pray daily for the health of his (i.e. the King's – Ed.) and his wife's souls.

"Which hospital, as it is supposed, he built with the overplus of his palace in Beaumont (commemorated by the stone at the end of Beaumont Street – Ed.) finished about the year of Our Lord 1126 or 28."

Amongst its early benefactors, Anthony Wood records the names of two Cowley men; Andrew Amory, of Temple Cowley, who gave half an acre of land "in the culture or tillage ground in Cowley called 'Gersham Streete'; an acre of land near this hospital in 'Wete furlong' in the same lordship, half an acre in 'Uppehull furlong' abutting the headland of the Templars and half an acre in the field called 'atte-merschende'". The second was Henry de Kersington "who also gave several lands in the same town of Cowley lying in the furlongs of 'Hockmere' and 'Hurtesheued'".

200 years later St Bartholomew's Hospital was given to Oriel College by Edward III, in letters patent dated at York February 24, 1328/9. A condition of the gift was that the provost and scholars "should always from time to time allow maintenance for one chaplain to celebrate divine service in St Bartholomew's chapel every day, and also sustentation for eight brothers in the said hospital then being, of whom two were to be sound, and the rest infirm, to every one of the brothers 9d. per week, and 5s. a year for their clothing."



Admission to the Hospital, which was open to male citizens "free or not free" of Oxford, and to "country men living in Cowley" was at the sole discretion of the college, whose officers were directed to "take an inventory of all their goods that they brought into the hospital." There is a magnificent example of such a "hospital" founded at about the same time and still in use just outside Winchester at St. Cross.

In spite of its royal foundation, however, and grants from well-wishers like the Amorys and the de Kersingtons, funds seemed to have been a bit short, and the allowances of 4p. a week and 25p. a year were threatened. It was then that the hospital administrators had a brilliant idea which they put to the bishop (then at Lincoln). The bishop, Henry Burwash, responded warmly, and granted 40 days indulgence to anyone who would "devoutly come to the chapel of St Bartholomew's Hospital without Oxon on the feast of the said saint (August 24 – Ed.) or 8 days after, and there with prayers and oblations and gifts worship him, and also out of charity contribute relief towards the leprous almsfolk thereof." A statue of the saint was set up to encourage the practice, and the annual jamboree at Bartlemas became very popular, "to the great benefit both of priest and poor people here."

Come the Reformation, images and revels had to go, and all that remained of the custom was an annual procession to the Hospital

by the Fellows and Choir of new College on Ascension Day. But the money-spinning indulgences were no more, raffles and bazaars not yet invented, and the Hospital fell into disuse.

A PETITION

A PETITION is being organised appealing to the Oxfordshire County Council to ensure that the old buildings of St James School are put into immediate alternative use when the school vacates the premises in July. The appalling condition of Rectory Farm on the other side of the road is a grim warning of what happens as soon as buildings become disused, and it would be tragic if Cowley's oldest school, in which local children have been educated for 140 years, was allowed to fall into a similar state of desolation. Anyone who would like to support this petition is invited to write to the Rev. E. C.Walker, St James House, Beauchamp Lane, Cowley.

(We are still appealing for ideas in 2014 and are determined to save the old school)

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RECIPES

We often serve apple sauce with pork but here is a different sauce to add to pork chops

Pork chops with Cranberry sauce (serves 4)

- 1 oz flour seasoned with one teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon of ground black pepper, ½ teaspoon dried rosemary
- 4 large boned pork chops
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 4 tablespoons canned cranberries
- 5 fl oz dry white wine
- 2 tablespoons of double cream

Mix the seasoning into the flour on a large plate

Dip each chop in the flour till it is completely coated

Shake off any excess flour

In a large frying pan melt the butter and oil together

When the foam subsides add the chops and fry on each side for about 5 minutes making sure they are browned all over

Reduce the heat to moderately low and continue to cook chops for a further 30 minutes, turning them occasionally

With tongs transfer the chops to a warm serving dish

Cover with foil and pop into a warm oven while you make the sauce

Remove the pan from the heat and discard all but about one tablespoon of the fat

Stir in the cranberries, wine and a little seasoning and bring the mixture to the boil

Stirring constantly cook the sauce for 5 minutes

Stir in the cream and cook for another 30 seconds

Remove the chops from the oven and pour the sauce over them

Serve with creamed potatoes and green beans or courgettes

Here's a lovely pudding using plums which are now in season



Plum Compôte (serves 4)

- 10 fl oz water
- 6 oz sugar
- Grated rind of ½ lemon
- 1 ½ lbs plums, washed, halved and stoned

In a medium sized saucepan combine all the ingredients except the plums and cook the mixture over a low heat stirring occasionally till the sugar has dissolved

Increase the heat and boil the syrup for 5 minutes without stirring – it should thicken slightly

Add the plums, reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for about 4 minutes when the plums should be soft but retain their shape

Remove from the heat, allow to cool, then put the compôte into a serving dish and chill in the fridge

Serve with big dollops of whipped cream or vanilla ice-cream

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

I have news of Joyce's wonderful shoe box campaign for deprived children in orphanages in the Third World. She tells me she has completed 25 boxes so far this year and is still looking for more items to fill as many as possible. If you have not managed to find any little gifts please do not forget that it costs a considerable amount to post the boxes off so a donation towards this would be very welcome.

Friends of Lye Valley

At the recent AGM of the Friends of Lye Valley it was clear that this small group is fighting to retain this area, which can easily be spoilt if the flow of water is not maintained. Development along the periphery can severely damage the peat bog, and the following article which was in a recent Oxford Mail shows what rare habitat the area has and how lucky it is to have such experts looking after it:

Ice Age flower is still quite at home in balmy Headington

AN 8,000-year-old flower is blossoming in an Oxford meadow.

The fragile and rare Grass of Parnassus thrives in the peat bog of the Lye Valley, Headington, where it has flowered since the last Ice Age.

Experts believe it probably arrived there on the feet of mammoths or other prehistoric animals whose bones have been found in the adjacent Boundary Brook.

The Lye Valley is the most southerly place the grass is found in England.

Dr Judy Webb, chair of the Friends of Lye Valley, said: "The Lye Valley is without doubt the most ancient habitat in all Oxford. "We are very good at caring for old buildings and inviting new research organisations to establish themselves in Oxford – but the Lye Valley tops them all for age, rarity and uniqueness. "Grass of Parnassus should be Headington's icon, for my research has revealed that the first ever records of the plant were made in Oxford in 1570 by a Belgian Botanist, Matthias de L'Obel. It was noted in Headington in this very wetland as long ago as 1640 and it is remarkable that it has survived to this day."

JOKES

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

15. My mother taught me about ENVY
"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION
"Just wait until we get home."
17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING
"You are going to get it from your father when you get home!"
18. My mother taught me about MEDICAL SCIENCE
If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

After the August break our new programme for the 2014/2015 branch meetings is now available beginning on 15th September. We are very pleased to have Howard as our speaker before he leaves the parish for his new one in Canada. Members may remember that earlier this year he was invited to join a small group of C of E ministers on a visit to Israel. He met with leaders of other faiths in what he describes as a fascinating conference. He has promised to speak on this and we are eager to hear all about it. As a branch we are more than pleased to welcome visitors to our meetings so anyone who feels they would like to hear Howard for almost the last time before he leaves, do come along. We begin, in the Church Centre, at 2.30 pm and always end with a cuppa and biscuits.

On 26th September we are holding one of our popular wine, cheese and poetry evenings. This is open to everyone and is great fun. We invite people to bring along one or two of their favourite poems on absolutely any subject. If they are shy about reading their poems themselves there is always someone who will do it for them. We ask £4 for wine and supper for those who do bring a poem and £5

for those do do not (because they come to be entertained!) and any small profit goes to an excellent Mothers Union charity. The evening begins at 7 pm and ends when we have no more poems. Anyone who has not been to one of our poetry evenings should come along and give us a try.

Finally, the July summer tea-party was a great success. As a bring and share occasion the range of goodies was splendid though there was a little shortage of sandwiches!



Two men were pushing their shopping trolleys round a super-market and bumped into each other. After apologising they swapped the information that they were both looking for their wives. "What does yours look like?" asked one. "She's very tall, slim, blonde with lovely blue eyes. What about yours?" "Oh, never mind, let's find yours first, shall we?" came the answer.

REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Two meetings have been held – one on the 13 July 2014, and an Extraordinary Meeting on the 20 August 2014.

13 July 2014:

The PCC decided:

- To apply for a Faculty to refurbish the vestry at St James Church at a cost of £10,000. A separate fund raising campaign will be held to raise the necessary money.
- Proceed with the provision of solar panels at St James Church Centre – an approach will be made to the Oxford City Council Planning Department and the Oxford Diocesan to get permission to undertake the work.
- Bell Tower – the Faculty paperwork had not been received and Howard Thornton agreed to pursue this (*soon after the PCC meeting the Faculty was received, and an order has been put in for the work*).
- To allow the memorial safety work to be undertaken in the church yard as requested by the Cemeteries Manager at Oxford City Council.

It also discussed:

- The links with the Anglican Asian Living Church
- The outside painting of St Francis Church
- The refurbishment of the kitchen at St Francis Church
- The Deanery Synod Meeting held on 21 May 2014
- The Old School Building in Beauchamp Lane

20 August 2014

An Extraordinary Meeting was called to discuss the arrangements for the Interregnum following Howard Thornton's resignation, and the PCC discussed fully the guidelines received from the Archdeacon. It was clear that:

- The Team Vicar, Skye Denno, will organise the day to day running of the parish, although legal responsibility is held by the churchwardens and the Area Dean.
- The churchwardens would need to ensure they had a meeting with Howard to ensure they had full information on the work he had been doing and any unfinished work.
- It was essential that the Parish Plan be updated so that this could be discussed with the Archdeacon as soon as possible – a small team of people were appointed to go through the existing Parish Plan and update following discussion with PCC members, the Church Committees and members of the congregation.
- More PCC meetings would be needed to ensure the collect procedure was followed

The work on the Parish Plan is one of the most urgent things and Josh Hordern is co-ordinating this. It is hoped that it will be ready to have the all-important meeting with the Archdeacon between the 20 – 24 September 2014.

Sally Hemsworth

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
01865 701948
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Non-stipendiary Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow
01865 461953
Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Dr Amanda Bloor
Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Gordon Hickson
Tel: 07713 688079

Revd Tony Beetham
Tel: 01865 770923
Email: tonybeetham1@supanet.com

Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

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

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

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

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