

Oxford Pilgrims

There's a container ship at Southampton harbour that's waiting rather impatiently. Our home is in chaos. Cupboards are open and the contents are all about. There's no space to eat at the dining room table. It's become a place where emotional decisions are made: "We'll keep this, give that away; you can take that to the charity shop; my brother would like that, we could take it for him." There's an urgency about the task of sorting through a lifetime's possessions and memories. In the wings of our lives, a crew is standing by to export wrap and box everything for a 40 foot long high cube container in just a couple of days.

We love Cowley, love Oxford, love England; we could happily spend the rest of our lives here. We love the people of the parish. They are a most amazing congregation of saints who have lived fascinating lives, conquered fears, risen to challenges, been on the edge of despair and found a way through. They have won and not become proud; they have lost, but have not become embittered. I feel humbled to have had the privilege of being your rector and companion on this part of the journey of our lives together. Many people have asked, "How can you leave?" Right now, in the middle of packing, I wonder that too.

The question impels me to look back on our time in the parish and consider why I came. I can see we've grown in many very positive ways. We've grown in unity. Our worship is more honest, more varied, and dare I say, more

heartfelt? We study the scriptures and look for ways to live them out. We have wrestled with what God is calling us to be, and how God is calling us to act, in Cowley and in the world. There's a greater sense that we need each other, that to fulfill God's purposes requires not only the talents of the ordained but the combined talents and energies of everyone. And there is a great sense that we are here to love and serve each other and God. I think more people are involved in a wider variety of ministry in Cowley than there ever has been before. Our vision to "to live out God's purpose for us, to make Christ known in Cowley, and to raise up a new generation to love and serve the Lord" is becoming more of a reality.

I owe a great debt to each of you. You have been a support, a real help, a true family. We have laughed together, spoken of the very deep things of life, cried at funerals, been filled with joy at weddings and baptisms, broken bread together. I know God will be with you and guide you and greatly bless you.

In the face of all of this and the sadness we profess at the prospect, you may wonder why we are leaving. But just as we felt that God had called us to Cowley and opened every door for us to come, so we now feel that he is calling us back to western Canada. It will bring new challenges and adventures. These next steps – on our pilgrimage and yours – will succeed, if each of us remains close to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

HOWARD

Chronicle

October
2014

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Let's begin with another big congratulations to the residents of St Francis Court for winning another first prize in the Oxford in Bloom project again this year. The photograph of a small section of the garden printed in "The Oxford Mail" looks so pretty I am sure everyone involved must be very proud of their results.

What an amazing job our "graveyard team" have done in the last few years. The survey, with all its findings is now safely filed in a book in the Parish Office. It is incredibly detailed yet even now Sheila Tree and Erma Clarke are still intent on filling in the small number of gaps that exist. The book is available for people to see on request.

The intention to upgrade and refurbish St James' vestry and St Francis' kitchen are still firmly in place. Amongst all the other much-needed fund-raising to keep the Parish "afloat" money is gradually building up for these worthwhile projects. Soon the two churches will be much smarter, hooray!

Joyce Titchell is still receiving the knitted hats for Smoothies, but the deadline is 10th October 2014 to ensure they are delivered on time.

It is some time now since it was suggested that a selection of our Chronicle recipes might be compiled into a little cook book. Well, I am pleased to say that copies will soon be available. They will be on sale well before Christmas. Might I suggest that a copy would make a nice little present for a friend who likes to cook?

Now I would like to remind you of a very special concert (originally planned by Howard) which is being held in the Parish Church on Saturday, 7th November, the evening before Remembrance Sunday. We are calling it "Keep the Home Fires Burning" as it will be a tribute in music to the bravery of those who fought in the First World War. It will not be at all gloomy, I promise you. The Jubilee Brass Band are planning a super programme of tunes which reflect the patriotism of the nation followed by songs which helped to boost the morale of the troops. There will be a chance to sing along at the end (with the words

printed in the programme). Tickets, £10, will be on sale later this month so I do hope lots of you will join in this commemoration.

And now I guess it is time to say goodbye to our lovely rector, Howard. Haven't the seven years that he has been with us flown by? I was looking back the other day on some of his front page letters for The Chronicle and realised that the message of God's love for us all is reflected in so many of them. Your very generous donations towards a parting gift has meant a big treat for Carol, Katie, David and Howard to enjoy together. We, you and I, have collected enough to book them in to The Savoy Hotel tearoom for a special cream tea with champagne and also for top tickets for a West End show in London to follow. There will also be a cheque. The idea of an experience rather than a piece of something large to transport to Canada was agreed by a small committee headed by Skye. Of course there will also be the small lunch party and the big barn dance to speed them on their way. It will be hard to see them go, won't it?

Only two more Chronicles before Christmas, can you believe it?

God Bless

Rosanne



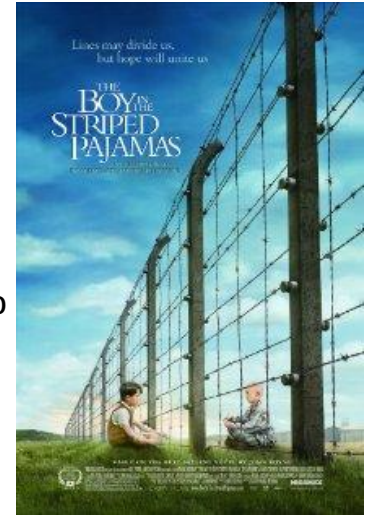
Film Club at the Centre

It is good that we can report that our film club is going from strength to strength. The September film "Quartet" was thoroughly appreciated by our biggest audience yet. We welcomed several new members too. Members' generous donations gave us another profit of over £100 towards parish funds. Such wonderful news!

October's film will be in complete contrast. We will be celebrating our second "birthday" on Friday, 10th October with a showing of "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas". For those who have not seen it we need to warn you that it is a very moving story of two young boys caught up on either side in the brutality of the Second World War. There are no celebrity stars in the cast, the two boys being the main characters, but the

sensitivity of the production is outstanding. The film critic of The Times newspaper wrote when it was first released, "It is one of the most moving and remarkable films about childhood I have ever seen".

We still have a few spaces for people who would like to become members of the Film Club so if you are interested do come along after 6.30 pm on 10th October and we will sign you in.



5th COWLEY GUIDES

The Guides finished the summer term off with two fun meetings. The Guides spent one evening at Hinksey outdoor swimming pool on a lovely sunny evening and one of the Guides made her promise. On the last meeting the Guides had a barbeque and played games.

Over the summer some of the Guides went camping at Jubilee House near Stanton St John. The campsite had just opened a brand new toilet and shower block and dry shelter both of which were fantastic although for once we managed to pick the best week of the summer weather-wise to go. The theme of the camp was 'Under the Sea' and the girls completed the Seahorse Challenge and Under the Sea Challenge alongside traditional Guide badges such as Camper and Outdoor Cook. There was a tepee on the site and the Guides were allowed to use it during the week and it made an interesting addition to the rest of the

tents. Activities included undersea bingo, making jellyfish, angel fish coasters, beach games, water games (plus water fight!), two fun wide games and lots of proper campfires. The Guides managed to have lots of opportunities to cook over open fires and spent an entire day doing patrol cooking which they enjoyed although cleaning their own pots and pans came as a bit of a shock. There was also a visit to Rectory Farm where they picked their own strawberries and raspberries for puddings and spent time on the inflatable slide and bouncy castle.

We have returned to Guides and are starting to work towards the Teamwork badge and a WW1 challenge. Towards Christmas we will be doing two fun challenges based on Reindeers and Robins and are already planning our tree for the Christmas Tree Festival.

Cynthia Retter

Prayers from the Ark
By Carmen Bernos de Gaszold

Translated from the French and with a Foreword
and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

Noah's Prayer

Lord
What a menagerie!
Between your downpour and these
Animal cries, one cannot hear
Oneself think!
The days are long, Lord.
All this water makes my heart sink.
When will the ground cease to rock under my
feet?
The days are long.
Master Raven has not come back.
Here is Your dove.
Will she find us a twig of hope?
The days are long, Lord.
Guide your Ark to safety,
Some zenith of rest
From this brute slavery.
The days are long, Lord.
Lead me until I reach the
Shore of Your covenant.

Amen

From St John the Baptist Church, Stanton St John *(from the Ride and Stride)*

Dear Lord
this church was built as a house for you,
not because you needed it –
you didn't
not because it's big enough to hold you –
it isn't
not because we can't find you anywhere else –
we can

It was built as a meeting place
where together we can
worship and wonder
sing and study
pray and ponder

Be with us
while we are still here
and when we leave,
be with us still

Let this place
be lovely in our memories
and miraculous in our lives

Amen

Ride & Stride 2014

We had a record number of Riders and Striders this year and they were John Shreeve, Jane Coutanche, Erma Clarke, Chris Knevett, John Booty, Lesley Williams and Dave Stanley. I am sure you will join me in saying a big well done and thanks to them for supporting this annual event. Thank you also to all the Welcomers who so freely gave up their time between 10:00 – 6:00. We had a steady flow of visitors during the day (unfortunately I am not able to give the exact numbers at this time) but I will update you when I get the figures. Can I remind everyone that sponsorship money is due in please. I have to count and pay this into the bank by 31st October.

I believe the Parish will be applying for a grant this year for help with the refurbishment of to the vestry in St James so as soon as I can pay this in, we will get our half back!

June Smith

A THOUGHT

You can't set everything straight.
That's beyond your power. Even if
you do all you can,

Day and night for the rest of your life,
there will be some things that just
don't or won't respond to honest ef-
fort on your part. That doesn't mean
though, that you have to give up. It
simply means you must be realistic
and willing to see a partial success as
a victory, not a source of disappoint-
ment.

Aim for the best but accept the possi-
bility that the 'next best' may be
what you have to settle for.

Once you get used to it, you'll find it's
actually better than the best!

FLOWER OF THE MONTH – MARIGOLD

The botanical name for this month's flower is calendula, given that name because it blooms in every month of the calendar year. It is very welcome in late summer and early autumn as it adds bright colour to our gardens when many of the summer flowers are over. I have even seen its bright orange flowers peeping through the snow on dark winter days.

The daisy-shaped flowers which thrive in our gardens used to be called pot marigolds for a variety of reasons. They were often put in cooking pots in the Middle Ages as a cheap substitute for saffron to colour cakes, butter and puddings. The botanist, John Gerard, who had faith in the healing powers of plants, used the petals for "broths, physical potions and diverse other purposes". These included a hair dye. The sixteenth century herbalist William Turner berated those who used the herb to colour their hair "not beying content with the naturall colour which God hath given them".

Marigold is a shortened version of "Mary's gold", this being the golden flower included in the wreath of blossoms often seen on the head of the Virgin Mary. Painters in earlier centuries depicted the mother of Jesus ascending into heaven in glory wearing a crown of flowers. For this reason it is often used to decorate embroidered altar frontals too.

The other species of marigolds popular as bedding plants in summer gardens are those we call "French" or "African", although they both originated from South America and were brought to Europe by Spanish bounty hunters in the New World. Their botanical name is Tagetes, given to them by the early botanist Linnaeus. No-one knows why he chose to give these "new" flowers a title from the early Greek God Tages especially as his traditional attributes were to foretell the future by examining the entrails of dead animals!

French and African marigolds are often planted by gardeners in vegetable plots as they repel pests thus eliminating the need for pesticides. They are also said to repel vermin. Slugs and snails certainly dislike their smell.

The easiest of flowers to grow, they flourish in dry conditions and add the glow of the sun in winter or summer.



Ways to tell if you are a "Wrinkly":

When you open your bathroom cabinet and you realise that the cosmetics are outnumbered by the medicine

You find it easier to sit down than stand up

When it is time to go up to bed you wish that the bed would come down to you instead

You cannot understand why Radio 2 is playing so much rubbishy modern music and has young upstarts like Chris Evans presenting it

You don't need to listen to the weather forecast because you can predict the climate by the way your joints behave when you get out of bed

You are shocked to find that policemen, politicians and others in authority appear to be fresh-faced youths who don't appear to have even started to shave



Church Cowley St James CE Primary School

We are very excited about the new academic year at Church Cowley Primary! We have a number of new staff to complete our existing, fantastically energetic and dedicated team, including two new assistant headteachers, 3 new members of teaching staff and four newly qualified teachers at the start of their career. We've welcomed them all to the team with open arms and the children are excited to see what is in store for them this academic year!

We have launched our new curriculum this September with the whole school topic of the Wizard of Oz! The children have been writing new versions of the story, based on learning about our new school values of:

- Compassion
- Moral Courage
- Respect
- Tolerance

As part of the new curriculum, we have added djembe drumming, salsa, ukulele lessons, guitar lessons and to our already wide repertoire of learning opportunities. The children and staff are very enthusiastic about exploring new learning opportunities with each other and I hope that we will be able to put on lots of performances to show-off our new found skills!

We have been fortunate enough to secure the old Church Cowley St James school site, next to St James Church, to be used as part of our curriculum development. Lots of members of the school and church community joined together to clear the old playground and surrounding areas of weeds and rubbish – it is now clear and ready to

be turned into a new learning environment where the children will learn Forest skills: making dens, using tools, creating a vegetable garden and flower patches. A big thank you to everyone who has helped us so far!

It has been lovely to welcome many new children and families to our school community. We hope that we will continue to build on our priority of community engagement this academic year. Our morning community café is still open every morning during term time – please pop along for a cup of tea or a croissant!

We look forward to strengthening our links with the parish further and improving the provision for both the children and the school community in the future in order make Church Cowley a real strength in Oxford city education. We would be very interested in having parish members come into to school for tours or for groups to be contacted when the children are doing special events in order that you come into school and be an audience for the children. We'll treat you really well, show you around and give you a real flavour of what our vision for the school is and have you be a real part of our successful journey.

Please contact us on office.3210@church-cowley-st-james.oxon.sch.uk for more details and I really look forward to inviting you over the threshold, into the delight and vibrant school of Church Cowley St James Church of England Primary School.

Steve Dew

Head teacher

Cowley at the turn of the Twentieth Century

(from Nan Davies' memoirs after WW1)

Well, very gradually things began to get back to normal. The tin sheds vanished and brick ones built in their places along the Garsington Road, a lot more men were employed, the men who did come back, some were given their old jobs, but in such a lot of cases they had been taken by men who for some reason or other did not have to go and fight. They remained at home getting the good positions and more money, which was very bad for those returning, making them feel bitter and disillusioned after going through so much, then coming back to sheer indifference in some cases. Many had been prisoners of war and had been through hell one way and another.

Morris Motors now became a flourishing concern, some men began to own their own cars and looking back it seemed to me things changed rapidly, not for the best in many ways. I remember the unions starting and it was explained to me that if men had a grievance they could go to a man called the shop steward who would go to the head and talk it over, but now it has become so strong, the union wants to tell the boss what to do. Now the fields started to go and houses put up all over the place. Past John Allen's was all green fields right to Iffley Road, because it was low lying land to the back the cows were in grass and mud up to their udders. Every year the Army had their manoeuvres there, but a Mr Moss bought some of the land and Florence Park houses were built. Mr Morris had a row of houses built at Barracks Road

and in the big building behind the factory he had a nice flat for himself and often slept there. Sometimes he would be walking round quite early in the morning and if he saw some of the older men that had started with him in the early days he would stop, have a chat all about the family and if he had a grievance pointed out to him, he would go into it and have it put right. He did not grow into a snob like so many do, yet he so easily could have with his achievements, a good man and a gentleman was Billy.

Now during all this time houses kept being built. The big field beyond John Allen's was built on and a road made down to Florence Park. Mr Moss presented the Park to the Council as a tribute to his wife whose name was Florence.

FAMILY HISTORY ADVICE

Are you interested in finding more about your Family History?

Oxfordshire Family History Society (Sheila, Derek and Erma) are offering help at the St. James Cafe on the last Saturday of the month. We have access to all Oxfordshire Parish records and Census returns, as well as the work that we have completed for Cowley St James Church.

We would love to show you how to search for more of your family details, come and talk to us while enjoying a cup of tea.

Sheila Tree

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

Meeting, 20th October 2014

Speaker: Skye Denno

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 25 October 2014

Coffee, Cake and Communion

Monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday of month
from 10.30 a.m.

With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco

Close (Tel: 434160)

Film Club

Friday, 10 October 2014 -

"The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas"

St James Church Centre, commencing at
6.30pm with coffee and cake

Poetry and Cake

Listen to poetry performed by Jane and Joel
Saturday, 11th October 2014, 3 – 5 pm

St Francis Church

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

Cowley Local History Society

Tuesday, 21 October 2014 at 8 pm

Talk: Ignorant, Petulant, Rash and Profligate
[The Grand Tour]

An illustrated talk by Seranagh Quartermaine
United Reformed Church, Temple Road

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

December 2014

*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.

BISHOP JOHN'S GRAND DAY OUT

Well, it certainly lived up to its name, that Saturday in September when Bishop John invited the whole diocese to Christ Church Meadows for a great big picnic. It was estimated that close on 2,500 of us gathered there and despite the cloudy skies we certainly had a grand day out or as my son nicknamed it the "Bye-bye, Bish, bash". Incidentally I managed to actually catch up with the Bishop and told him what my son had said. Because of his lovely sense of humour Bishop John said he loved it.

Our part of the day began at 10 am though the pilgrims who walked the Thames path that day had set off at 7 am. We were greeted in the Meadows by a huge band of stewards including air cadet girls and boys. I was amazed to see Amanda Bloor in full army gear and combat boots helping to direct the youngsters. After the gathering prayers and very lively hymns we dispersed to our various venues to be given lectures/talks by a wide range of eminent speakers. I understand that the conversation between TV baking queen, Mary Berry and the Bishop in St Aldates was very good. However I chose just the right talk for me given by Allan Doig, who spoke about revealing our faith through our church buildings. Knowing how much I love our two churches here in Cowley Parish, as most readers do, you will appreciate how fascinating I found this. A walk with Allan Doig around our beautiful cathedral was a treat.

Lunchtime, and back to the Meadows for our picnic. Quite a few Cowley folk gathered in a "family" group and quite a few of us recognised Christian friends from other parishes too. The Abingdon Concert Band entertained.

Further talks and workshops followed lunch. Several of us from St James attended an interesting talk in St Aldates given by Emma Bridgewater, who founded a prestigious pottery company in Stoke-on-Trent, and her husband, who is her business manager. They shared their experiences on being busy working partners, bringing up a family and staying true to their Christian faith.

Time for worship. A walk back to the Meadows saw the huge crowd gathered for the Eucharist led by Bishop John. Need I tell you that it was very moving and uplifting? The singing was amazing. As was expected the Bishop preached a great sermon, laced as is his style with a few jokes. The whole day out was a unique experience of which I was lucky to be a participant.

Rosanne Butler



MAIDA'S POEMS

John Simmonds is a regular member of St James congregation who, a long time ago now, lost his beautiful wife Maida to cancer. He still misses her so much as do those of us who knew her as a friend. She had a real affinity with children and young people. She and Christine Knevett, who is a member of St James congregation, choir and leader of the Seashells toddler group used to run a very happy play-group for small children at Florence Park Community Centre. I can confidently describe it as such as my own small son spent many mornings there, always leaving with a smile.

In conversation with John a few weeks ago I learnt that Maida had left a legacy of some great poems which he, of course, treasures. At my suggestion he has very generously agreed to share them with us. So we are beginning with one, Her First Disco, and I am sure you will see the humour and warmth which personified Maida shining through it.

HER FIRST DISCO

Oh I feel so excited
I can't wait until tonight
I'm off to my first disco
I hope I look alright

I've got my sister's blouse on
It is too big for me
But I've stuffed me bra with tissues
Cause no one will ever see

My mum stays in on Mondays
I hope I've got it right
Cause I've just been to her drawers
And borrowed her best tights

I tried to put some make up on
I didn't have much success
Cause when I looked in the mirror
Cor what a blinkin mess

I couldn't do my hair
Like all the big girls do
I reckon all them Punks
Use lots and lots of glue

But still at last I'm ready
And I think I look great
I expect my mum will spoil things
And say "what a ruddy state"

Maida Simmonds



St James Café
St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane

10:00 am to 1:00 pm
the last Saturday of each month

25th October

for more information and the
booking of tables contact
Vicky Hall on
07901895925

come along for a tea or coffee and a
slice of homemade cake - then do a
little shopping on the stalls

Entertaining the Troops far from Home

It is very well-known how entertainers like Vera Lynn travelled out to Europe, North Africa and the jungles of Borneo during the Second World War to raise the spirits of the troops but it is interesting to learn that it was a Music Hall personality who in 1917 started the Forces Entertainment Service. His name was Harry Lauder.

On New Year's Eve 1916 Harry Lauder was staying in a hotel in Bloomsbury, London, when he heard that his son John, a captain in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had been killed in action three days earlier at Poitiers. Lauder left immediately for Scotland to be with his wife. The show in which he was appearing in London was postponed but he returned to fulfil his contract a few days later. He received a rapturous welcome from the audience, who had learned of his tragedy, and in the show had to sing one of the popular songs of the day "The Laddies who Fought and Won". This must have been heart-breaking for him.

For a couple of years during the war, along with many of his fellow stars, he had been supporting the troops and visiting the wounded but the loss of his son prompted him to do more. He of-

fered his services to the War Office to go out to the front to entertain the troops. His offer was accepted and May 1917 saw him playing in a farmyard to a handful of grateful men. He went on to entertain thousands of cheering soldiers in a natural field amphitheatre. At Arras while he was giving a concert the Royal Flying Corps flew overhead to deter a German aerial attack.

The soldiers loved the warm-hearted songs he sang which reminded them of home and joined in with enthusiasm. They were so grateful to him for risking his life for them. He went on in 1917 to found the Harry Lauder Million Pound Fund for Maimed Men and did tours in America to raise the money. The people of both America and Canada opened their hearts and their wallets for him.

Thus began the first shows for troops in history and also the Help for Heroes, so strong today, no doubt echoes the same sentiment of support for our brave servicemen. ENSA is the name of the organisation and many service personnel will tell you what a morale booster it has been in their lives.

A letter sent to Jill Ling from Beth Spence's family with a request that this note and thanks are shared with the people of St James and St Francis:

What a blessing it was to receive the lovely cards, note and donations from you and the wonderful congregations of St James and St Francis. We were so touched by the kind thought and the incredible generosity. You have all been very important to us as we have developed the Seashells Foundation and we are so incredibly thankful for all your continued support.

The charity is growing and developing well. We are half way to our target needed for the Beth Spence scholarship and we are still having a lot of fun doing it!

We continue to hold you, and everyone in the congregations, in our prayers. Thank you again for this wonderful gift – it really did lift our spirits to read the cards and hear about the special collection.

With much love and many thanks.

James, Philippa, Ollie, Lucy and Felicity

COWLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2014

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

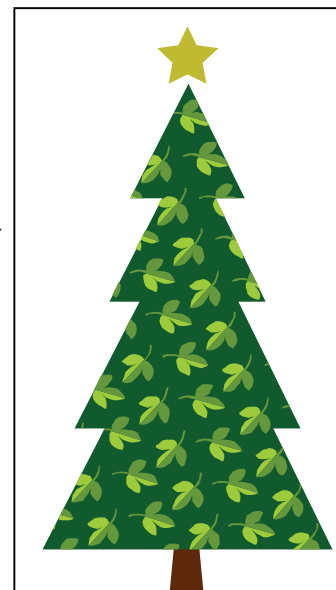
Progress has been made in the planning but we are still seeking more schools, churches and groups to be part of this great community event, both with decorated trees or alternative artwork on the angels theme and more particularly music, dance and drama performances for the daily mini-concerts. If you know any individuals, families or groups who should be approached to join us, please pass on the contact details below.

We also invite groups of senior guests to enjoy those mini-concerts along with tea and seasonal delights.

Saturday 6 December's concert will feature a baroque string group and choir from the County Music Service – and a.n.other performer, yet to be booked.

Next month, we will be signing you up to help with delivery of advertising cards, serving refreshments, stewarding the craft table, the family fun day....and more

Lesley Williams 07982 439 828 ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk



OUR FINAL FAREWELL TO HOWARD

For several years now it has been a wish of Howard's to hold a Barn Dance in the Parish. As it will be the last party we shall hold for him what else could it be but his long-wished-for barn dance? St Francis Church was chosen as the obvious venue as it has a suitable wooden floor and plenty of room for dancing as well as food and drinks.

Howard, Carol and David will be flying off to their new home in Canada on 19th October so the farewell party will be on Friday, 17th October. Tickets are available (in order to check on numbers and are quite free). Donations of desserts or cakes are requested and there will be an opportunity to donate towards the cost of supper and drinks on the evening. May Morgan has tickets at St James and Norah Shallow at St Francis.

The barn dance will begin at 7 pm with an hour of dancing. At 8 pm we shall catch our breath and a ploughman's supper will be served. After a chance for everyone to say our fond "goodbyes" at 9 pm, the evening will be rounded off with more dancing. By the way don't worry if you don't know the steps of any country dances, there will be a caller to guide us through. And even if you don't want to get up and dance there will be plenty of chairs and you can always enjoy the jolly music and laugh at those folk who will inevitably get the steps wrong and make a mess of things. Tickets are restricted to just 100 so don't leave it too late to get yours.

Childhood Memories

I was very interested in the childhood memories in the Chronicle few months ago. I remember very clearly my first day at school - I was four and a half years old and I had an elder brother who went to school so I wanted to go too.

In the far off days of my childhood there were no preparations for going to school, no visits - mothers just took their children along and left them

I was given a picture book and was very surprised at the children crying and screaming all around me. I became absorbed in the book and was happily looking at the pictures when suddenly it was taken out of my hands and given to a child who was making a great deal of unhappy noise. I was stunned. I remember sitting thinking that it was very unfair to take the book away when I was quiet and although I did not think in the words I use now I pondered the situation. It seemed I had a choice, I could sit still and put up with the gross unfairness or I could cry and scream with the rest of the children and perhaps get my book back. A dilemma! I remember that I felt that I could not let myself and my mother down by behaving badly. I had my pride to think of and I sat quietly and awaited developments.

In retrospect I think it was a mature decision for a four and a half year old and really set a pattern for the rest of my life.

Incidentally I went to SS Mary and John's infant school and I knew my mother would come for me at lunch time and then bring me back for the afternoon. I would not have stayed for school dinners anyway but at that time, war time, only children who lived the opposite side of Cowley or Iffley Road were allowed to stay for dinner. Packed lunches were unheard of and so the majority of us trotted home for lunch and then came back and I remember that in the afternoon we had a repeat of the noise and upset of the morning.

Una Dean



ST. JAMES CHURCH

CHRISTMAS GIFT AND CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 15th November 2014
10.00 am to 2.00 pm

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Christmas decorations
Christmas wreaths - Orders taken
Tombola and lots, lots more

all at prices you can afford

All proceeds will go towards refurbishment at St James Church
Please come and join us

Rosanne interviews Alison Lockheart

As most of my readers know one of the questions with which I always end my interviews is "What were you like as a child, how would you describe yourself?" Most people when asked have to take a moment or two to answer. Not this month's interviewee, oh, no! She came out with "Independent" like a flash. Now, I think that this answer and the speed at which she gave it sums up this decisive, and yes, independent, lady even today. The only person from whom she takes advice is God.

It was God, she declares, who wanted her to stay in Oxford once she had moved here in her career and she has a wonderful story to back this up. As a mental health nurse (more about her former career later) she came to work at Littlemore Hospital and was given, for accommodation, a tiny room with hardly room to swing the proverbial cat. Also being on shift work meant that trying to sleep in the day-time was pretty difficult with people moving around above her and noise outside. So she talked to God about it, giving him a list of conditions for her ideal home. And, would you believe it, she got them! I wanted a penthouse flat with a lovely view, more room and a ground floor garage" she listed. Now she lives in a delightful flat at the top of a block in Rose Hill

with lovely views across the countryside and the desired garage for a car on the ground floor, all thanks to social housing.

However, before this Alison had led an interesting and chequered life so let's begin at the beginning and take it step by step. The eldest child of draughtsman father and hairdresser mother she had three younger brothers for whom she was expected to be responsible. They grew up in Winchester. Alison told me she was not a bossy big sister but was expected to look after her younger siblings not just by walking them to school but also taking them to the barbers, or the cinema. When her mother returned to work she was also the oldest in the house after school.

She was only three years old when she started going to Sunday school. She loved it, especially the little stamp books with a sticker for attending each Sunday. At ages four, five and six she was awarded the prizes for full attendance throughout the year. She was given lovely books as prizes, too advanced for her ability to read. She still has them now and they are amongst her treasured possessions. At four it was time for kindergarten school which she describes as "horrible" declaring that all she learnt whilst she was there was

how to count from one to ten in French!

Infant school was "more bearable" as she had a nice teacher. Life was easier as her mum had already taught her to read. The School itself was quite a long way from home and she would walk there each day unescorted and alone until her eldest brother joined her. At seven, her junior school life had a bad start mainly because the family moved to Southampton. Her granny had died, grandfather moved from his house so it became available. Alison hated her new school for several reasons. First she was put in a grade much lower than her ability, then all the girls in the class already had friends but most of all because she was often late. You see there were two possible routes for her to take. The quickest one meant that she had to walk past a house with a fierce dog. So scared was she that she would take the roundabout route and arrive after school had begun. She had to bang on the door to be admitted and then be sent to the head to get her mark in the register. Luckily though, a new girl joined her class soon after her. They became firm friends and stayed so right through their school years.

Despite being good at all aspect of English her secondary school experience was even less happy than her early years. She

described her comprehensive school in Southampton as very poor and the teaching as incompetent. To relieve the boredom she learnt the trick of playing up in class enough to be sent to stand outside the classroom door. This she would only do for a short while and then wander off round the school finding out what was going on in other parts of the building. She also occasionally had bouts of bronchitis. As her mother was at work, she had home to herself. She learnt to forge her mother's handwriting and write excuse notes for a fortnight's absence due to a "bad attack of bronchitis".

Her childhood was not all problematical, though. She went to Brownies which she loved and after a bit of pestering persuaded her mum to allow her to do piano lessons, despite the fact that the family did not own a piano. After a while practising in a friend's house a second-hand instrument was bought. Later A-level studies took over when she and her friend went on to an excellent sixth form college where they discovered how much they did not know! With hard work Alison took examinations in French, English, history and religious studies and qualified to read English and religion at Aberdeen University. It came as a shock to discover what a bitterly cold part of Britain she had moved to.

After graduation she had very little idea what her next move might be but with a vague idea about going into publishing she

learnt shorthand and typing and then went to live in London. Instead she worked for a while for E.M.I. and the Association of Commonwealth universities. A change in direction saw her seeking an outdoor career in horticulture so she set off to Chelmsford to study for a diploma. She spent a year at an experimental horticulture station in Lymington. There she worked on developing research into new strains mainly in vegetables. She enjoyed the work enormously moving on in her second year to a vegetable farm in Chertsey.

She spent the next sixteen years working in horticulture, part of the time in East Anglia. She lectured in her subject at St Albans Horticulture College and also went to Deal in Kent where she was involved in soil management and crop protection. Of course, alongside all of this she learnt to drive a tractor.

By now being financially more secure, she bought a small flat in Deal. All this time Alison had been attending a wide range of churches, meeting many interesting preachers and speakers. She told me that at this point God sent her to a Bible School in nearby Folkestone and before she knew it He had called her to give up her job and become a part-time carer. She declares that God also provided enough money for her to live on. She found that the most satisfying side of her work as a carer was with a firm who dealt with people with violent behaviour. In order

to gain more expertise she trained for nursing at Christchurch College in Canterbury and decided that mental health nursing was the most interesting side of the work. Once qualified she applied for a job in Kent but a freeze on funding made that an unrealistic option so she found instead a nursing job in Oxford. It was, while she first worked at The Warneford Hospital, lonely and living in a pokey little room that she gave that list to God for a flat – and got it.

Nicely settled in with friendly neighbours and a little allotment nearby it came as a terrible shock to find herself suddenly taken seriously ill. It was cancer. With huge determination and lots of prayers she has beaten it.

I asked her what had brought her to St James Church. She told me how, at St Aldates, she had met Ed and Jill Ling. Ed had made some nice shelving for her and before long her new friends had told her about how they had discovered a warm, friendly church in Beauchamp Lane, Cowley and why didn't she do the same. She told me how grateful she has been for the support she received from the folks at St James during her cancer treatment. She also told me about a really miraculous escape she had only recently, when on her way to Scotland on holiday. She had swerved her car in a narrow road, hit a verge, run down a slope and ended up in a river! With the car sinking she calmly climbed out, having

rescued her handbag and mobile phone, and survived to tell the tale. There is lots more to the story so next time you meet her get her to fill in the details for you.

With all these experiences behind her what more is there to tell of her story? Simply that she has now launched into a three year course to train as a lay-reader. She visits Diocesan house one day a week and is embracing the academic side of the course with enthusiasm. Still full of energy and looking to the future Alison is more than happy to wait and see what God has next in store for her.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

I was independent.

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

Yes, my eldest brother and I ate poisonous berries and got our stomachs pumped out. It was my fault, it was my idea, I was five and he was four.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

No. I became a Christian when I was fifteen. I invited God into my heart. Since then I have never doubted the existence of God and what He said to me.

Is there anyone who has had a strong influence on you as a person?

My mother's father. He would always do his daily Bible reading and I would sit on his knee.

Do you have a treasured possession?

My grandfather's Bible.

What is your opinion of life in the present day?

I think it's hard but Jesus gets you through.

If you could change something in an important way what would it be?

An increase in Christians talking about Jesus.

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

When I was at university.

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

Seeing friends, looking after my allotment and the occasional theatre visit. I do enjoy a good play.

What plans do you have for the future?

Retirement and then see what God has in mind.



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:
OMC, Bennet Crescent*



SAINT OF THE MONTH

The story of Thomas of Canterbury's fatal quarrel with Henry II is well-known as is the fact that he was an incredibly strong-willed man of faith.

This month we hear of another Thomas equally strong-willed who fell out with those in high office but who died, not by assassination but by through sheer hard work, at the age of 64.

Thomas of Hereford was born in 1218 at Hambleden in Buckinghamshire into a rich Norman family and lived for the greater part of his life in privilege. His family were powerful nobles related to the earls of Pembroke, Hereford and Abergavenny. His father was steward to the royal household and his mother was dowager countess of Evreux (in Normandy) and Gloucester. His uncle, the Bishop of Worcester, was entrusted with his education, preparing him for high, noble office in the Church and State. At the age of nineteen Thomas was sent to Oxford to study. Unfortunately 1237, when he and his brother became students, was a year in the middle of a period of discrepancy about the theological and logical teaching of the Chancellor, Robert Grosseteste. Roger Bacon was also teaching and doing research in his folly tower on Folly Bridge. In other words it was a time of turmoil over educational policy. Because of this Thomas and his brother went to study in Paris instead. There they lived in wealthy style.

Whilst in Paris, Thomas became an ordained priest, and in 1245 attended the Council of Lyons. It is not clear why he gained favour with the pope but it is known that he received special dispensation to hold several benefices at the same time. This was unusual but he used this privilege during his prolonged period of study and in later life. After studying civil law in Orleans and receiving his licence for canon law in Paris he returned to Oxford to lecture. Almost

immediately he was elected Chancellor of the University. He became a supporter of poor students, stamped out the use of offensive weapons and as a wise man of law supported the barons in their complaints against Henry III. When the king had lost his cause Thomas was made Chancellor of England.

He only held the post initially for a short time and subsequently returned to Paris as a lecturer. Because he had been a stormy and controversial character it seemed that his future lay, not in the Church, but in the secular world of politics. After a while he became a Doctor of Divinity and, unusually, took up his former position as Chancellor of Oxford University in 1273. As an extremely active priest he held a number of offices in England and would travel many miles between his churches to check on the wellbeing of all his practitioners and the fabric of the buildings. He was Preceptor in York, Archdeacon of Stafford, Canon of four other parishes in Staffordshire and Canon, also of several parishes, in Herefordshire.

Edward I was so impressed with Thomas' work that he chose him as Bishop of Hereford when the position became vacant. There had been much upheaval in the area due to civil wars, local lords' unrest and two previous ineffective predecessors so there was much for him to do. He set about his task with energy, first of all giving up his rich status and taking to wearing the hair shirt of penance. He was particularly zealous over the confirmation of children and rebuked anyone he considered to be public sinners, particularly the wealthy. Unfortunately his views clashed with the then Archbishop of Canterbury, John Pecham, and it was obvious that eventually the two men would quarrel. It was partly over the jurisdiction of wills and marriages also jurisdiction over local bishops.

Thomas was chosen to speak up on these matters of law. The matters were taken to Rome and he was found to be within the papal favour. The quarrel with Pecham became personal and he was banished as a result. At the Papal Court in Orvieto in Italy in 1282, Thomas was taken ill, worn out with his endless struggle for the rights of so many people. There he died soon after.

He was buried in Orvieto but his heart was sent back to his cathedral in Hereford. Pecham tried unsuccessfully to deny him a Christian burial. There was a sharp reaction to the Archbishop in Hereford. The cathedral soon became an important centre of pilgrimage in the west of England. Thomas' friend, the new bishop, petitioned for his canonisation and was supported by Edward I. His canonisation took place in 1320. His feast day is held on 2nd October.

Arrangements for Interregnum

Just to let you know that as Howard and family are now on the move we are entering what is known as an Interregnum which is the time between when one priest leaves and another is appointed. We are happy that arrangements are being put in place to continue the active life of the Church. Many of the Groups and services will carry on much as normal.

We are indeed blessed that we have a Team Vicar, Skye Denno, in our Parish who will be able to look after the day-to-day matters and we have asked her to take a greater role in the interim. She is now well ahead in compiling service rotas. We anticipate and look forward to seeing more of her at St James as well as her busy role at St Francis. We are also well blessed to have a good ministry team to call on, including Richard, Mark, Tony and Amanda. Norah, Dave and Skye will be meeting regularly to check everything is running smoothly. We will set up other liaison groups as necessary to ensure we have feedback from different ministries.

As to the process of making an appointment, the Parish Profile is being updated following the questionnaire that went out to the congregation and the PCC will be meeting with the Archdeacon soon to take us through the next step. We hope to advertise the post in November.

Please let Norah, Dave or Skye know if you have any concerns so these can be addressed.

We wish the Thornton family well in their new placement and are grateful for what they have done in their time of ministry with us. There are several opportunities to say farewell and thank them.

Dave Stanley
Nora Shallow
Churchwardens

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FAMOUS HYMNS AND THEIR STORIES

“We plow the fields and scatter” by Matthias Claudius (1740 – 1815)

This lovely old hymn, which we sing with such gusto at our Harvest Festivals, we think of as quintessentially English in origin, is to the contrary German in its roots. Born in Reinfeld near Lub ëck the writer Claudius was the son of a Lutheran pastor and at first he seemed destined for the same profession. However the rationalist influence of his university coupled with ill-health, caused him to change his mind and he became a journalist instead. At the time he wrote the hymn he was editing the local paper where he also served as Commissioner of Agriculture. This fascinating hymn first appeared in a play written in 1782 about a harvest thanksgiving in a North German village. In its original version it ran to 17 verses with a refrain between each. Later it was shortened to six verses with a chorus. It was this shorter version which was translated by Jane Campbell, the daughter of the vicar of St James, Paddington. Although this hymn is so old in origin it sounds quite modern and not out of place today. It is still extremely popular across all of our churches particularly in the countryside. Giving God the credit for the growth and harvest of our crops it puts the emphasis in the right place and makes us feel humble in the face of the wonders of nature.

John Shreeve

Editor: It is not we who “scatter” in this hymn. We “scatter THE GOOD SEED on the land”

FRIENDS OF LYE VALLEY

You may be aware of Headington Neighbourhood Plan taking shape. Anyone who lives, works or studies in the Headington area is welcome to complete it. If you live in the Headington area you will be receiving a form through your door asking you to comment on some draft policies, one of which relates to green spaces ie conserving them, increasing public access and increasing biodiversity. If you don't get one through the door but you live or work in the Headington area shown on their map, do please complete it online.

You are asked to rate the various suggested policies out of a score of five. Do, please consider giving Green Spaces a score of five! (Anyone remember Janice on Juke Box Jury? 'Oi'I give it foive!') <http://headingtonplan.org.uk/index.php/plan/consultation-2014/>

Friends of Lye Valley's autumn work parties are coming up on Sunday 5 October 10-4pm on the north fen and Sunday 12 October 10-4pm in the South fen. Following the autumn haircut of the reeds we need to rake them out of the way so that they do not smother the precious plants which should be growing there. Come along in your old clothes and wellies - even for an hour or so, and give us a hand? Bring your lunch, meet some friendly people, and learn something about how to manage a tufa-forming valley-head spring fen, the best SSSI fen in all England!

Some kind students at St Clare's have recently done sterling work in the valley - you may have noticed their magnificent efforts in clearing scrub near the north fen.

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

I am really pushed for time this month to meet the Editor's deadline. So this will have to be short and sweet.

After the lassitude of August it is now all systems 'go'. We have much planned by way of services and social events. We say goodbye to Howard and pray for Skye with her extra responsibilities. As always we need more helpers and volunteers. Ride and Stride and

Harvest Thanksgiving are already things of the past.

We must look now to the future and as always pray for God's blessing on us all.

John Shreeve



OPEN DOORS

Oxford Open Doors day on 13th September was a fine sunny Saturday. This was the third year that we had opened our two churches to visitors from far and wide. The two previous years had brought very few visitors. Last year, which was a freezing cold day, at St James we welcomed the grand total of four people between 10 am and 6 pm – very disappointing. However, undeterred we put our churches' names in the Open Doors booklet 2014 and waited.

Well, we only waited fifteen minutes at St James when in bowled three charming Americans whose enthusiasm, interest and obvious delight was most encouraging. Throughout the day we had a steady stream of visitors who made very nice remarks about how interesting everything was and how much they enjoyed their coffee/tea and cakes. One person wrote in the visitors' book "a little gem of a church". Well, we all know that but it was lovely to have it written down, wasn't it?

St Francis church too had more visitors than on the previous years, making the opening up so worthwhile. One person in particular had made the effort to come and see the beautiful painted beams which we all know are some of the hidden treasures of Cowley. Our fame is spreading so who knows how big the crowds will be when we open again in 2015!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This is a recent letter in the press:

Hi, heaven

SIR – in our village church, we had just embarked on prayers of general intercession when a mobile left on a seat burst into life with a man's voice saying: "I'm sorry but I cannot accept any further requests, please try again later."

Have smartphones finally achieved the communications ultimate?

Rodney Stone
Marlborough, Wiltshire

News from the Bell Tower

We have resumed our Thursday night practices, but are still struggling to find enough ringers to ring for Sunday services. Our ringers are continuing to make the most of the beautiful late summer weather with weekends away and day trips, but we hope soon to be ringing more regularly.

Last weekend, Charlotte and I joined a group of Oxford ringers for a trip to Burford. The church boasts 8 bells: the tenor weighs 17cwt (at Cowley ours is 5cwt) and, dating from the middle of the 14th Century, is one of the oldest bells in the country still rung to changes. Unusually, most of the bells were actually cast in Burford, where foundries operated from the 17th to the 20th Centuries. It was a real privilege to ring such wonderful bells, and on a sunny morning, the view from the ringing chamber over the Cotswolds was truly superb. Jenny and I also visited the Ringing Road Show. This is an event held roughly every 5 years, and this time was at Newbury racecourse. Ringers from all over the country came along, and there was much thought put into opening towers in a staggered formation on all the approaches to Newbury and again in the evening, so all those wanting to could stop at a church and ring. The stalls were varied – from sally makers to bell foundries, bell jewellery and books to computerised ringing simulators. There were lectures, hand bell concerts, and outside the grandstand mini-rings had been brought in from all over the country. Mini rings are portable bell towers, and with lighter bells, ideal for children too young to ring in towers to try their hand. We also heard tales of some people who really had taken their enthusiasm for ringing to

extremes. There is the man for example who has set up a mini ring in his dining room by installing the bells in a spare bedroom and drilling through to the dining room so people can sit round the table and ring from there, and someone else who has turned his garage into a ringing chamber. We like to think we are keen here at St James, but none of us has taken things quite that far.

This coming Saturday we are hosting a practice for ringers from all over Oxford, and the Branch practice will be in Cowley in October, and we are starting to look forward to the many Christmas ringing events, so we have busy times ahead. As ever, please come and see us on a Thursday evening, or call me on 777486 if you would like to find out more.

Lindsay Powell



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

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For further details of both classes phone Barbara
07752626642
KFA Fitness through movement, dance and exercise
www.keepfit.org.uk

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN OCTOBER

On 3rd October 1906 the Morse signal SOS was first adopted as the official international distress signal. SOS stands for "Save Our Souls".

At 11 pm on the night of 5th October 1969 the first broadcast of a new line in television comedy was transmitted. The programme was "Monty Python's Flying Circus".

The human race had its first-ever glimpse of the far side of the moon on 7th October 1959. The stunning pictures were beamed to earth from the Soviet probe Luna III which successfully orbited the moon for the first time.

George Stephenson's Rocket won the competition to be the steam engine first used on the Liverpool to Manchester railway on 14th October 1829.

On 23rd October 1707 the first Parliament of Great Britain (excluding Ireland) sat in Westminster. The new parliament incorporated Scotland for the first time.

Isaac Singer, the inventor of the sewing machine was born on 27th October 1811 in New York.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Drawn from Memory: Drawn from Life
by Ernest Shepard, Methuen 1986

This delightful book is pure nostalgia, and is very easy reading. The author is a well-known book illustrator, and so as might be expected his writing is peppered with lovely little line drawings which bring the whole thing to life. He is blessed with a prestigious memory and can recall things that happened from the very earliest days of his childhood. The various street characters near his home, and the shops he visited with his mother. Sadly his mother, whom he was passionately fond of, died quite early in his life. Yet in spite of this he seems to have had a happy and contented childhood. His period was the late Victorian, early Edwardian years, a very interesting time. His place was a suburb on the edge of London, a colourful area. Much was happening during these years and much was changing, and we see it all in graphic details. This is a book that will appeal I think particularly to the ladies – the mums especially, though it is open to anyone. As they say in restaurants ENJOY!!

John Shreeve

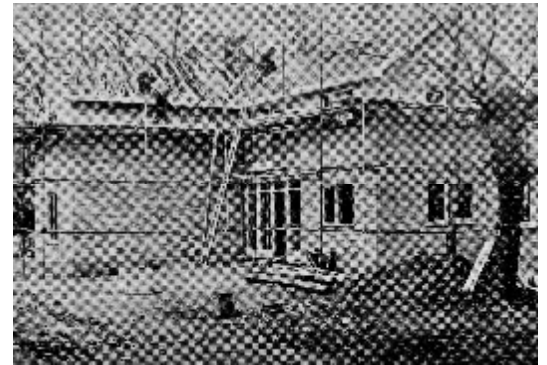
Every Saturday morning grandad looked after his three young grandsons. The boys always wanted to play "war". Grandad was coaxed to join in. One Saturday his daughter arrived to pick up her sons and saw one of them "shoot" grandad with his toy gun. The elderly man slumped to the floor and his daughter rushed over. "Are you OK Dad!" she asked anxiously. Her father opened one eye and whispered "Don't worry, darling, this is the only way I get a rest."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from The Cowley Chronicle, May 1962

St James House, which is being built in the drive of the old vicarage. It is going up fast – since this photograph was taken the tiles have gone on – and is going to be a fine house surrounded by many lovely trees.

As you go in through the front door, you will enter a spacious hall – warmed in winter! – where it will be possible to sit and wait in comfort. To the right, nearest Beauchamp Lane, is the fair-sized study.



To the left of the front door, off the hall, is a glass door behind which the life of the family can go on undisturbed. Fr and Mrs Norton will be moving in as soon as it is finished.

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

At a recent meeting of the St James Pastoral Care Team, decisions were made which affect each person who is on the Electoral Roll from St James. Many of you may not know that this Pastoral Care Team (PCT) exists though it has been in existence for about twelve years.

It works as follows. Eleven people from St James Church have volunteered to be responsible for everyone in the church family especially when they reach a difficult or special time in their lives. For instance it may be that through illness, bereavement, moving house, an accident or whatever, you have lost touch with church. Or it may be that you have reached a special event like a new baby, a new partner, a “big” birthday and so on. You, if you are on the Electoral Roll, are already on someone’s list.

It is now the responsibility of your group carer to let you know who she is and give you her telephone number. Please don’t worry about your telephone number being bandied around, lots of confidentiality is observed. These kind people will want to know if you are sick, at home or in hospital, and will either try to visit you or organise someone else who knows you

well to come round. You will also probably receive kindly telephone calls and/or cards. They will also be happy to rejoice with you in good times.

This system is very much up and running at St James Church, and at the recent St Francis Church Committee Skye indicated that she hoped a similar scheme could start at St Francis.

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

21 October 2014
Commencing at 8.00 pm

TALK:
Ignorant, Petulant, Rash and Profligate
[The Grand Tour]

An illustrated talk by Seranagh Quartermaine

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

THINKING OF THE HARVEST

My brother-in-law, Martin, is a very practical person especially when it comes to cars and machines. He works for an arable estate on the Welsh Borders. He has just had his favourite time of the year when he is in charge of the enormous combine harvester which cost the price of an average house. He loves being up there. The on-board computer tells him the percentage moisture of the grain and all other important stuff. He will be there from dawn to beyond dusk harvesting rapeseed, wheat and oats. The harvest in August was rather on and off as we had lots of rainy periods. While he waited for the crop to dry, he would be oiling and sharpening and all the other maintenance tasks that come with the job.

September has been dry so the harvest for this year is now finished. I always think of him when I am sprinkling my breakfast-time bran as the oats he brings in go to the factory that mills it. He can now have a free weekend to get involved with his favourite sport which is Tractor Pulling. (Google it, it's completely mad!)

I am thinking about harvest as we have had some good crops on the allotment this summer. We have had loads of broad beans, courgettes, onions and garlic. We also have had a good crop of potatoes but it has been a poor year for peas. My jostaberry (a blackcurrant cross) was stripped of most of its berries by pigeons and the sweetcorn were also poor this year. My other half is about to grub up the raspberries as they didn't grow and crop at all well. I must have had them for about 10 years and we will replant elsewhere with new canes this winter. The potatoes are in sacks in the shed and the onions, shallots and garlic are also

in store. I had 12 pumpkins on the plot, the really orange ones that you see near Halloween in the supermarkets. I have already given 5 to the Restore shop on Elder Stubbs. My grandchildren will have the others for Jack-o-lanterns too.

We have had a really good year for runner beans. They are probably my favourite vegetable but I don't like them frozen so they get distributed to neighbours and at Graham's work. My Mum used to salt them down in stoneware jars for the winter and they were particularly horrid to eat. Those jars would go on the pantry shelves alongside kilner preserving jars of gooseberries and plums. More horrors!

Soon, the catalogues will arrive for choosing the seeds for 2015 and I will be watching for new things to try. I shall be especially looking for plants I can grow for next year's Plant Sale. Provisionally, it will be on Saturday May 16th. So please put it in your diaries and, if you can, try to think how you can help next May.

Joan Coleman

Editor: My mum used to salt runner beans in jars for the winter too and, yes, I agree with Joan they were horrid!

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RECIPES

Here is a good variation on jacket potatoes for a nice lunch time snack:

Crispy baked potatoes with ham (serves 4)

8 medium-sized potatoes
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2oz butter
6 eggs (well beaten)
Tin of chopped tomatoes (strained)
4oz Cheddar cheese (grated)
6oz ham (finely chopped)
Salt and pepper to season

Pre-heat oven to very hot (230°C, gas mark 8)

Put the scrubbed potatoes on a baking sheet and bake in the oven for 25 minutes. Remove from oven and rub them all over in vegetable oil soaked into a kitchen towel. Return to oven for further 15-20 minutes till soft.

Take out of oven, cut a slice off the top of each potato and spoon out the soft inside. Leave to cool a little.

Reduce oven temperature (180°C, gas mark 4). Using about half the potato pulp, mix it in a bowl, with the butter, eggs, ham, cheese, tomatoes, salt and pepper. Beat well till thoroughly mixed.

Spoon the mixture back into the potato skins and place in a large baking dish.

Bake them for about 15 minutes until the tops are lightly browned.

Can be sprinkled with chopped parsley or served with crisp green salad

“Wunderbar” Macaroon Cream

– a nice easy pudding

8oz crushed Macaroons

4fl oz double cream

1 teaspoon ground allspice

Big can of apricots, drained and puréed

2 tablespoons brandy

2oz soft brown sugar



In a medium-sized mixing-bowl combine the macaroons, cream, allspice, apricots and brandy. Spoon into a flameproof dish and sprinkle over the sugar

Put the dish under a very hot grill till the sugar caramelizes

Can be served hot or cold

(Other fruit can be used – would be lovely with apples or pears)

A middle-aged woman suggested to her husband that they might go out that evening and have some fun. “Good idea, luv” he answered, “but if you get home before me leave the light on”.

CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 22 October 2014

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

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News from St Francis Primary School

Managing the implementation of Universal Free School Meals for the under 7s

The new term has started and, as predicted, many parents are keen to take up the universal free school meals offer for their children. In the first full week of school alone, St Francis has seen the percentage of children in Key Stage One having school meals increase by 39%. It could be that this is not a long-term increase but the indication is certainly that parents are keen to take up the opportunity, in the short term at least.

With the increase in numbers, St Francis was keen to ensure that the additional pupils taking up school meals would receive the same high quality provision that was in place before the universal scheme. In preparation, the school received new, more efficient kitchen equipment with an increased cooking capacity. In addition, new tables and chairs were ordered that would provide the additional seating required while not taking up too much storage space. Additionally, due to some pre-planned building work, the usable space in the hall was increased, making it a more comfortable lunchtime experience for all.

In terms of the day to day running of the lunch hour, the school has put in place a new timing system for bringing children in to the hall and has enlisted the help of a group of Year 6 pupils to support children coming in for their school meal as well as in their transition out in to the playground after eating. This has also been helped by the introduction of a playground zoning system with an increased range of lunchtime activities and resources for children to enjoy both before and after eating.

As expected, there have been some teething issues due to the increased number of meals, mainly in terms of timing but over all staff and pupils seem to be happy with the new arrangements. From the children's point of view, the meals are certainly a hit. When asked about the new arrangements, pupils from key stage one had the following to say:

'I like school dinners, especially when we have pizza.' – Harry Tilbrook (Parrots Class)

'I like the pudding the best!' – Stanley Marler (Parrots Class)

'I like the food!' – Nathan Yindom (Red Kites Class)

'I like the food. It's delicious.' – Hannah Watts (Red Kites Class)

Time will tell whether the increase in pupils enjoying a hot lunch will be sustained but until then, St Francis will continue to provide tasty lunches for all children that require one.

Anneka Fisher

Deputy Headteacher

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MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

As expected our September branch meeting was very well attended with several visitors joining us. The attraction was the fact that our speaker was our Rector, Howard, who spoke mainly about his recent visit to Jerusalem. He had attended a conference of Christian ministers and Muslim elders in sharing of faith issues. He also spoke about some of the Holy sites he had visited and his impressions of the people he had encountered. He concluded his talk by telling us about his new parish in Canada, the places nearby and the home he, Carol and David will be moving into. Howard was also enrolled as a full Mothers' Union Member.

Since the beginning of the year our members have donated a considerable sum of money to

support the Mothers Union Overseas Outreach Appeal. Recently we have received a request to donate to the Harvest Appeal to help feed hungry children in Africa. What better way could there be in response to our gratitude for our own good harvest? So the members voted to send £50 in support of this.

Our Team Vicar, Skye, has had a busy summer organising workshops at the Greenbelt weekend, visiting Rome and goodness knows what else! She will be the speaker at our October branch meeting on Monday, 20th at 2.30 pm in the Church Centre. This will surely be most interesting so any visitors who would like to join us will be warmly welcomed.

News from St Christopher's

It was a warm welcome back to all our families at the start of September and we are enjoying getting to know our new children and their families. We have an exciting few months ahead of us as all the building work around the site nears completion. We are looking forward to moving into 4 new classrooms, some new group rooms, a family room and the new school kitchen, hopefully at some point before Christmas. It will be a welcome addition to the school once we can cook our own hot meals instead of bringing them in from elsewhere. Numbers for school meals are rising now that all the children in Reception, Year1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free hot meal and we hope to entice even more to take up this offer once our kitchen is finished.

The children spent some time in the first week of term looking at our Christian values and there are now some lovely displays on the walls around school. Our value for September is 'Belonging' and we continue to explore this in our assemblies.

We hope to run a large selection of after-school clubs for children this term, which will include chess club, dance club, hockey, Energy club, cooking, football and homework club amongst others. We think it is so important for the children to have a broad range of experiences and opportunities.

Sheenagh Broadbent

Deputy Headteacher

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

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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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Email: richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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01865 461953
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Revd Dr Amanda Bloor
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