

Equipped to Serve

June is always a month when there is a lot going on, as we take advantage of the long summer days. Later in the month, some of us will be going to Offa House for the Parish weekend which will be a wonderful opportunity for growing closer together in friendship and fellowship. Sunday 29th June will be a very special day for the parish when Mark, our Curate, will be ordained priest in Henley Parish Church. We wish Mark, Harriet, Ben and Isaac well as Mark prepares for this very significant day in his life.

There are also a number of other important days in the Church's life this month, the most important one being that of Pentecost on June 8th. Here we remember the occasion when the

Holy Spirit came on the disciples as they gathered together, no doubt feeling rather sad and perplexed just ten days after Jesus had departed from them at the Ascension. The coming of the Holy Spirit dispelled all their sadness and they were fired to go out and proclaim the gospel with hearts and minds revived.

Just as the first disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, so we too can be re-energised in our faith when we are open and expectant towards God. The Letter to the Ephesians describes how gifts were given "to equip the saints for the work of

ministry". The 'saints' does not simply mean the early apostles and disciples. It means people like you and me, in each generation. God's Spirit has gifted each one of us to enable and equip us for ministry. Our task is to discern our own particular gifts (or maybe other people will discern them for us!) and to offer them for service in building up the body of Christ, the Church.

Some of us have recently seen a

new video called "Restoring Hope in our Church" produced by a number of Anglican mission agencies and featuring among others, our two archbishops, Rowan Williams and David Hope. The video begins with Rowan William's vision for the future of the

Church, goes on to present several challenges to us today, and ends with describing three key ways of "being Church" - through prayer, in small groups, and by engaging in the local community.

Might we ponder this month the ways in which God may be calling us to exercise our gifts; through prayer, through our meeting in small groups, and through engaging in the local community around us? And indeed perhaps in other new and as yet unexplored ways?



Sister Margaret Anne

The monthly magazine of

Chronicle

June 2003

Healing Services

St James Church Wednesday 18th June 7.30 pm

St Francis Church

Tuesday 3rd June & 8th July

7.00 pm

Anyone who would like prayers for themselves, or for others, or who would like to join us in praying for God's healing work is welcome.



Sundays @ Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6.00

June 8th United Service

July 6th Waiting on the Word

August no service

September Evening Praise



Churn to Oxford Pilgrimage

Mon 21st - Wed 23rd July



Calling all young people! Would you like to join us on our next pilgrimage? We will walk, sleep on hall floors, have simple meals, spend time together - and have a good time!! The cost is £25 and if you would like to know more or want to come, please speak to Fr John.

It should also be possible for anyone who would like to come with us, but who can't manage the whole 3 days, to join up with us for a day or a part of a day - if you'd like to do this, speak to Fr John.

South Africa - the Rainbow Nation

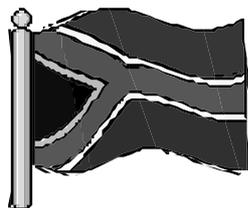
See country of breathtaking beauty, share some of its history, meet its people, and learn about its transition.

Tony Olley invites you to see and hear about his recent pilgrimage to South Africa.

7 o'clock Friday 27th June

St James' Church Centre

a taste of South Africa's wines in the interval!



The Why's and Wherefore's of Life!!!

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called built?

Why is abbreviated such a long word?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Why is it that when you tell a man there are 400 billion stars he will believe you, but when you tell him there's wet paint he has to touch it?

What would Geronimo say if he jumped out of an airplane?

What do you call a male ladybird?

What hair colour do they put on the driver's license of a bald man?

If your supermarket is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If a firefighter fights fire and a crime fighter fights crime, what does a freedom fighter fight?

Who's cruel idea was it to put a 'S' in 'lisp'?

Do you find it unnerving that what doctors do is called 'practice'?

Would a fly without wings be called a walk?

Are you losing your friends?

How many friends have you kept since your schooldays? Since college days? Since before you got together with your present partner? And how often do you see the ones you've still got?

It is a sad fact, say government sociologists, that nowadays, between the demands of careers and claims of family, many of us are losing our friends.

Time is one factor: our days are filled with work, our evenings and weekends with family and home concerns. And yet, in this day of emails and constant travel, the reason has to be more than that.

Sometimes our partners want to impose new ways of behaviour on us, and do their best to discourage old friendships. Jealousy of shared memories, simple dislike of our partner's old friends, or even desire for social upward mobility can be motives. Marriage can really erode friendships: husbands or wives are apt to resent

time spent away from them. Yet it is the wise wife or husband that will recognise the value of their partner's established friendships. And see in them a true reflection of their own spouse's character. For the ancients saw 'permanence of character' as the key to friendship. In other words, "I am friends with you because of your character and remain so because you are the same

person you were." The type of person your partner has freely chosen for a friend in the past simply says a great deal about your partner, whatever that may be!

Of course, true friendship does not easily die: it has the peculiar ability to survive in suspended animation for long periods. Such 'frozen' friendships, when contact is re-established, seem to carry on where they left off.

But not even deep friendships can take the years of complete neglect many of us give them, nor survive on the odd evening of social chit-chat which we throw their way from time to time. Friendship needs honest face-to-face involvement, an engagement of the heart and mind.

Euripides, in *Orestes*, declared: "One loyal friend is worth 10,000 relatives." So it is worth pausing a moment sometime soon and taking stock of your life's friendships. Think what your friends have

meant to you in the past - and how badly you might just need some friends in the future.

"We take care of our health, we lay up money, we make our roof tight and our clothing sufficient, but who provides wisely that he shall not be wanting in the best property of all - friends?" So asked the American thinker Emerson, and his question is still pertinent today.

For our society to be healthy and integrated, we need more than good government, economic stability and millions of family units: we need to live in a rich fabric of relationships with each other.

Dr Johnson advised that friendships should be kept in constant repair. Because, quite simply, our friendships greatly enrich our lives. We neglect our friends to our own detriment.

The First Eucharist of Mark Harris

Tuesday 1st July

7 o'clock

St James Church

Preacher: Canon Brian Mountford

Vicar of the University Church
of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford





Rosanne interviews Connie Uren

This month's interviewee is one of those remarkable people who can look at themselves objectively and tell it just as it is. The other remarkable trait that she has is tenacity. When she finds a good thing she will stick with it for years and years and I'm not just talking about her 50-year marriage to Eric. As this profile unfolds I hope you will see what I mean.

She describes herself in childhood as "a very little, little girl", quite nervous and shy. As an only child she met and made friends with Marjorie whilst still at infant school. She became the sister Connie never had and even now is a frequent visitor to the Uren home in Clive Road. The girls grew up together in Plumstead Common, South London and attended a typical red-brick, three storey school. Connie enjoyed lessons because she loved to raise her hand and come up with the right answer. So bright was she that she took her scholarship (11+ exam) two years early and to her parents delight gained a place at Christ's Hospital, the famous boarding school. Of course World War Two intervened and she was evacuated to the Kent village of Sandhurst from where she moved on to boarding school. She told me she had a fairly difficult time there because she was

criticised for a lack of "efficiency". This meant she was not quick enough. Of this she is fully aware. "I am slow, I am always going to be slow," she says. However she found that coming to terms with this helped her relax and things got better, except in P.E. and games – "I was absolutely hopeless" she declares.

At 18 she left school to train as a chiropodist at Chelsea Polytechnic. Her daily journeys between Plumstead and Chelsea she describes as "hell on wheels". Having qualified in 1949 she found no opportunity to practise, so took a post in the laboratories of the British Drug Houses in London. A year later she and Marjorie went on holiday to Cliftonville where they met and (let's be honest) were chatted up by a couple of young handsome teachers from Oxford. Connie paired off with Eric, Marjorie with Jim and the foursome became two very happily married couples.

After their marriage in 1952 Connie and Eric set up home in Clive Road, and while he was teaching in East Oxford, she began a career in the biochemistry department of Oxford University's laboratories. She describes in vivid detail the happy enclave of neighbours she had and the enormous variety of small shops she used along the Cowley Road. She and Eric

also "found" St Luke's and Father Betton. Her first son Jonathan was born in 1956 and she became a full-time Mum. At this point she heard about the Young Wives group at St Luke's, joined and soon became an active member. She was made group leader and recalls that among the members were long standing friends, Margaret Randall and Cynthia Dales. Membership of the Mothers' Union followed. She knew nothing about Mothers' Union at the time but she was given a little prayer card by Father Betton, which focused on marriage and the family. One prayer included the words – "and that we continue to be lovers to the end of our lives" For Connie that said it all. From that day, more than 46 years ago, she has been an active member not only of the Cowley branch but the wider movement. The shy, nervous lady, after passing her driving test travelled extensively around the diocese to speak to Mothers' Union meetings. In Cowley she has served as branch leader. She has also



been deanery leader, archdeaconry vice-president, literature representative and indoor members' prayer-circle correspondent. A prolific letter writer she continues to correspond with elderly indoor members after many years. Once her family were growing up she returned to work in the Radcliffe Infirmary laboratories, a very happy time for her.

Another long-term activity she "sticks" to is yoga. Diane Pope recommended that Connie tried it to ease a weak back. She did, it helped and she's been attending classes regularly for nearly 20 years. With her three sons Jonathan, Christopher and Jeremy all married, settled and presenting her with a clutch of seven grandchildren, one might wonder how she finds time to organise her busy life, yet she knits, gardens, writes letters and much more. I think it's quite fortunate that she's "a bit slow", goodness knows what she'd be up to if she ever speeded up. We'd never keep pace with her!

Was there one particular person who had a strong influence on your early life?

Two people really. My mother and Mrs Pope, who was the lady with whom I was billeted in Sandhurst. A wonderful Christian lady. I'm still in touch with her daughter.

What sort of child were you?

Little, shy, nervous. Very ordinary, strictly brought up. My parents were determined I should not be spoilt. That doesn't mean that it wasn't a happy, loving home.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

Yes, I think so. I was sent to Sunday school as we all were, but when I got to C.H. (Christ's Hospital) I got into the real Church of England and it felt like home.

Which period of your adult life gave you the most satisfaction?

I think probably working at the R.I. (Radcliffe Infirmary). The boys were growing up, becoming more independent and finances were not quite so tight.

Are there any aspects of modern life, which you dislike?

Litter and the stupid mispronunciations, which have crept into, our language – harRASSed instead of HARassed, conTROVerry instead of CONtroversy – infuriating!

What's best about life today?

On the whole people have a healthier old age.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I love reading for relaxation – a good novel or biography. Music, a good classical concert on the radio. Knitting jumpers

for my grandchildren, gardening (I kneel not stoop), and I did enjoy the Fernhill Singers. It didn't matter whether we were good singers or not!

What makes you laugh?

Max cartoons in the "Daily Telegraph" – he hits the nail on the head so often.

If you had a holy wand what would you change?

Intolerance between races and religions.

If you were not doing what you do now what would you do?

I would like us to be able to go for walks together.

Churches Together in Cowley and District



United Service for Pentecost

with the Salvation Army Band

**Sunday 8th June 6.00 pm
St James' Church**

Peter and Paul

Apostles of Christ

The two most famous apostles are remembered this month, for they share a feast day.

St Peter (d. c. 64AD), originally called Simon, was a married fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. He met Jesus through his brother, Andrew. Jesus gave him the name of Cephas (Peter) which means rock. Peter is always named first in the list of apostles. He was one of the three apostles who were privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the Agony in the Garden.

When Peter made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus recognised it as being the result of a revelation from the Father. He in turn told Peter that he would be the rock on which his Church would be built, that the 'gates of hell' would never prevail against it. Peter and the apostles would have the power of 'binding and loosing', but Peter would be personally given 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. Jesus also forewarned Peter of his betrayal and subsequent strengthening of the other apostles. After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter before the other apostles, and later entrusted him with the mission to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ's flock.

Peter played a big part in the early Church, and is mentioned many times in the Book of Acts, where in the early chapters he organised the choice of Judas' successor, preached with stirring authority at Pentecost; and was the very first apostle to work a miracle. Peter went on to defend the apostles' right to teach at the Sanhedrim, and to condemn Ananias and Sapphira. It was Peter who first realised that Christianity was also for the gentiles, after his meeting with Cornelius. Later he took a prominent part in the

council at Jerusalem, and went on to clash with St Paul at Antioch for hesitating about eating with gentiles.

Early tradition links Peter with an apostolate and martyrdom at Rome. The New Testament does not tell us either way, but Peter being in Rome would make sense, especially as Peter's first epistle refers to 'Babylon', which was usually identified with Rome. Peter's presence in Rome is mentioned by early church fathers such as Clement of Rome and Irenaeus. Tradition also tells us that Peter suffered under Nero and was crucified head-downwards. There is no conclusive proof either way that St Peter's relics are at the Vatican, but it is significant that Rome is the only city that ever claimed to be Peter's place of death.

St Peter was a major influence on Mark when writing his gospel, and the First Epistle of Peter was very probably his. (Many scholars believe that the Second Epistle was written at a later date.)

From very early times Peter was invoked by Christians as a universal saint. He was the heavenly door-keeper, the patron of the Church and the papacy, a saint both powerful and accessible.

In England there were important dedications to Peter from early times: monasteries such as Canterbury, Glastonbury, Malmesbury, Peterborough, Lindisfarne, Whitby, Wearmouth, and especially Westminster. Cathedrals were named after him, too: York, Lichfield, Worcester and Selsey. In all, it has been calculated that 1,129 pre-Reformation churches were dedicated to St Peter, and another 283 to SS Peter and Paul together.

Images of Peter are innumerable, but his portraiture remains curiously the same: a man with a

square face, a bald or tonsured head, and a short square, curly beard. Not surprisingly, his chief emblem is a set of keys, sometimes along with a ship or fish.

St Paul (d. c. 65)

Like Peter, Paul also started life with another name: Saul. This great apostle to the Gentiles was a Jew born in Tarsus, and brought up by Gamaliel as a Pharisee. So keen was he to defend the god of his fathers that he became a persecutor of Christianity, and even took part in the stoning of Stephen. He hunted Christians down and imprisoned them, and it was while on his way to persecute more Christians in Damascus that he was suddenly given his vision of Christ. It was the decisive moment of Paul's life - Paul suddenly realised that Jesus was truly the Messiah, and the Son of God, and that He was calling Paul to bring the Christian faith to the Gentiles. Paul was then healed of his temporary blindness, baptised, and retired to Arabia for about three years of prayer and solitude, before returning to Damascus.

From then on Paul seems to have lived a life full of hazard and hardship. He made many Jewish enemies, who stoned him, and wanted to kill him. Nevertheless, Paul made three great missionary journeys, first to Cyprus, then to Asia Minor and eastern Greece, and lastly to Ephesus, where he wrote I Corinthians, then to Macedonia and Achaia, where he wrote Romans, before returning to Jerusalem. After stonings, beatings and imprisonment in Jerusalem he was sent to Rome for trial as a Roman citizen. On the way he was shipwrecked at Malta;



when he finally reached Rome he was put under house-arrest for two years, during which time he wrote the four 'captivity' epistles. Later Paul may have revisited Ephesus and even have reached Spain. Tradition tells he was eventually martyred at Rome during the persecution of Nero, being beheaded (as a Roman citizen) at Tre Fontane and buried where the basilica of S Paul 'outside the walls' now stands.

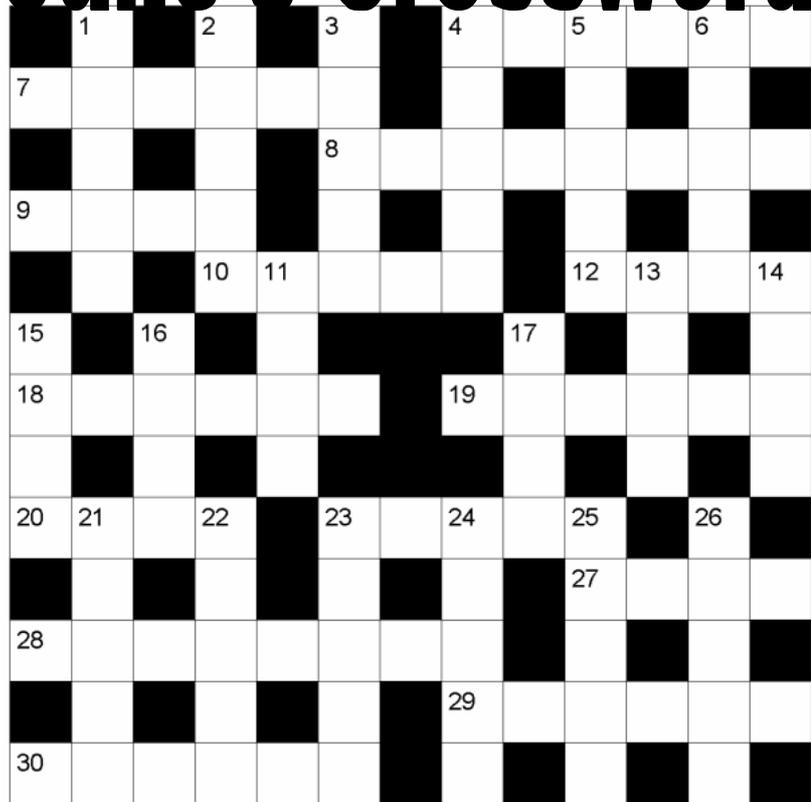
The belief that Peter and Paul died on the same day was caused by their sharing the same feast day.

Paul was not only a tireless missionary, but a great thinker. His epistles played a major part in the later development of Christian theology. Paul's key ideas include that Redemption is only through faith in Christ, who abrogated the old Law and began the era of the Spirit; that Christ is not just the Messiah, but the eternal, pre-existent Son of God, exalted after the Resurrection to God's right-hand; that the Church is the (mystical) body of Christ; that the believers live in Christ and will eventually be transformed by the final resurrection. It is difficult to overemphasise the influence of Paul on Christian thought and history: he had a major effect on Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin and others.

In art, Paul is depicted as small in stature, bald and bandy-legged, with a long face, long nose and eyebrows meeting over deep-set eyes. His usual emblems are a sword and a book. In England he was never as popular as St Peter, and ancient English churches dedicated to him alone number only 43.

The history of the relics of Peter and Paul is not very clear. Tradition says that Peter was buried at the Vatican and Paul on the Ostian Way under his basilica. Certainly both apostles were venerated from very early times both in the Liturgy and in private prayers, as testified by Greek and Latin graffiti in the catacombs of the early 3rd century.

June's Crossword



Across

4. where Christ was scourged (6)
7. A man or woman put to death for his or her faith (6)
8. Infinite time (8)
9. Head official of a cathedral (4)
10. Primitive (5)
12. Organs for hearing (4)
18. Habitation of God (6)
19. Pertaining to Adam (6)
20. Fine black powder formed by combustion (4)
23. To do with the pope (5)
27. Tiny particle (4)
28. Invocation of God's favour (8)
29. Spiritual beings serving as God's intermediaries (6)
30. Season before Christmas (6)

Down

1. Leader of the church at Jerusalem (5)
2. Piece of rock (5)
3. Dismal (5)
4. Devoutness (5)
5. Weapon with long wooden staff (S)
6. Table used for eucharist (5)
11. So be it (Hebrew) (4)

13. Charitable relief for the poor (4)
14. Heretical, dissenting religious group (4)
15. As an example (4)
16. Circle of light surrounding the head of a saint (4)
17. A plan of action (4)
21. Lubricated (5)
22. Oral sense (5)
23. To press a mark or design on a surface (5)
24. Heathen (5)
25. To express lively amusement (5)
26. Religious (5)

May's Solution



Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) Family Service (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
11.15 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
6.00 pm	Evening Service <i>[1st Sunday of the month]</i>

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00 am	Holy Eucharist
10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>

Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	8.00 pm	St Francis Discussion Group – <i>4 Long Close</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
	10.10 am	Mothers and Toddlers – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist - followed by coffee – <i>St James</i>
	11.00 am	St Francis Prayer Group
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	7.00 pm	Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i>
Saturday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast – <i>St Francis</i>

Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Confessions and Home Communion can be made with any of the clergy.

Days Off

Stephen has Friday off, Mark has Monday and Fr John Tuesday. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and two Sundays out of three.

Parish Directory

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Norah Shallow
Tel: 765199

DEPUTY WARDENS:

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Tel: 453257
Helen Doling
Tel: 779626

HALL BOOKINGS

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773620

weekdays only