

More than Conquerors

As we move into March, we enter into the second half of Lent.

Having celebrated Mothering Sunday we prepare to journey on through to the final week of Jesus' life. Such is the centrality of Jesus' Passion that the events of that last week take up nearly a third of the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

The suffering and death of Jesus have touched the hearts of men and women down the centuries.

Some of the most poignant works of art depict the tragedy and agony of those involved in the Crucifixion of Christ.

In an age which seems far too readily to avoid dwelling on pain and death, following Jesus in his suffering and death through to resurrection provides us with a framework upon which to set our own lives.

Witnessing the ailing health of Pope John Paul II brings home to us our common mortality. In his suffering and sickness, Pope John Paul displays a dignity which will not allow the frailty and incapacity of old age to be ignored. Yet Pope John Paul's sufferings are, in St Paul's words, short lived in

comparison with what lies ahead.

Our journey through Holy Week to the Cross helps us realise that suffering is very much part of a human life. All of us in different ways find ourselves negotiating our own Way of the Cross. Whether it is our own frail health or that of someone dear; whether it be personal tragedy or deep disappointment, we bear the burden but not in vain.



Before the end of the month we shall have moved through Holy Week to the joy of Easter Day. The disappointment, the futility, the cruelty of Jesus dying gives way to the realisation that out of the depths of

despair comes new life and a new purpose.

*No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
Life is nought without thee:
aid us in our strife,
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steph".

Chronicle

Lost for Words

sharing faith naturally

a course for the whole Cowley Deanery
led by Richard Zair

of the Church Pas-
toral Aid So- ciety



Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30 pm
at St Clement's Family Centre
April 13th - May 18th

1. April 13 Evangelism
- trouble or joy?
2. April 20 Connecting Well
3. April 27 Getting Started
4. May 4 Telling our Story
5. May 11 Telling God's Story
6. May 18 Keeping Going

Quite a few from our parish are going to this course, please speak with Stephen or Lorne

WHO IS LIKE YOU?



Who is like you,
Jesus, sweet Jesus?

You are the light
of those who are spiritually lost.
You are the life
of those who are spiritually dead.
You are the liberation
of those who are imprisoned by guilt.

You are the glory
of those who hate themselves.
You are the guardian
of those who are paralysed by fear.
You are the guide
of those who are bewildered by falsehood.

You are the peace
of those who are in turmoil.
You are the prince
of those who yearn to be led.
You are the priest
of those who seek the truth.

Johann Freylinghausen (1670 – 1739)

BEAUTY TIPS FOR WOMEN

This poem is said to have been written by Audrey Hepburn

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.
For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.
For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.
For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.
People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed,
revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.
Remember, if you ever need a helping hand,
you will find one at the end of each of your arms.
As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands;
one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.



Ministry of Healing

A monthly service on the first Tuesday of the month, alternating between St James and St Francis Churches

Healing Services:

Tuesday 5th April 7.30 pm at St James Church

Tuesday 3rd May 7.30 pm at St Francis Church



Christian Giving

Seven years ago, members of our congregations shared in a Christian Giving Initiative during which we were invited to look at what we contribute to the life of the parish in terms of time, talents, and money.

Because Christian Giving is integral to the life of any Christian and because there are quite a number of new faces within our congregations, it is time to address this topic once again.

Towards the end of March every member of the congregation will receive a letter setting out what is involved in this initiative. As before, every member of the congregation will be invited to a gathering in each of our churches at the end of April and during May, everyone will be visited by trained parish visitors to seek a response.

It is hoped that as we look to the future we shall have the resources necessary to be more effective in our ministry to the people of Cowley.



Holy Week and Easter at Saint James

PALM SUNDAY – 20th March

10.00 am Palm Sunday Procession
and Eucharist - *meet in The Hut*

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Reflection

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Reflection

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Reflection

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 25th March

7.30 pm The Maundy Supper
9.00 pm The Watch in St Luke's Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY – 26th March

10.00 am Family Service –
followed by Hot Cross Buns
2.00 pm The Last Hour –
music, readings and address

EASTER DAY – 27th March

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Family Eucharist





Rosanne interviews Cyril Room

Once you have met Cyril, seen the twinkle in his eyes and heard his chuckle, it comes as no surprise to learn that, as a small boy he was full of mischief. Not unkind or difficult mischief, but the sort that he calls innocent fun. Mind you, I'm not sure that 'Old Bossom' who owned the boatyard down by Port Meadow would have described it thus when he quite often found that a gang of lads had 'borrowed' one of his canoes, taken it up river and abandoned it on an island, because their mum's would be mad if they were late home! The boat was never damaged of course but none-the-less someone from the boatyard would need to retrieve it. That's only one example of the things Cyril and his mates got up to in those long childhood summers before the second world war.

Born and bred in Walton Street, Port Meadow and Binsey were his playgrounds. 'Our Mum hardly knew us when it was summer holidays 'cause we were never at home' Skinny dipping, birds' nesting, making bows and arrows and fishing were some of his summer activities, whilst winter memories include skating on the frozen floods and even once on the canal. Walton Street and Jericho held many charms, not the least of these being 'Del Novo's' wonderful fish and chip shop.

He started school at the age of three at St Barnabas' school and stayed till he was fourteen. He loved his school days from the start, remembering with affection a certain Miss Latham. She lived in Iffley Road and was 'getting on a bit', so when he was a little older and stronger he would go and

help her with her shopping. He told me too of the lovely weekly excursions to Hill End Camp at Wytham. As tiny infants a coach took them there with their teachers to wander the fields and woods, to learn their natural history and after eating their packed lunches, to curl up on little mattresses for a nap before retuning to Oxford.

There was very little room (if you'll excuse the pun) in the small house Cyril shared with his parents, sister and five brothers and money was not plentiful, but they managed to have lots of fun. His dad would often take him and his brothers fishing, a pleasure he now shares with his own sons. Once a year the whole family would make for Oxford Station for a day trip to Portsmouth – 'that was our holiday' One year they went to Llandudno and to this day he doesn't know why! His dad kept a loft of racing pigeons, which he helped to look after, and he himself kept fifty rabbits in the back garden. He was close to his dad and even now has his dad's old last, used when nailing studs into his and his brothers' books – a treasured keepsake.

'Would you like a piece of cake?' I was offered with my cuppa when I went to interview him. What a temptation! Cyril had made one of his gorgeous cream and jam sponges (specially). He's an expert cake maker believe me. 'Who taught you to cook?' I asked. 'Our mum' was the answer. Every Sunday the children of the family were required to cook the dinner, while the parents took a rest. Later in the afternoon they would be taken

for a walk around the University Parks. In the summer they were treated to an iced lolly. By the way, going back to the lunch, Cyril reckons he's never been able to make a decent Yorkshire pud except when you pour the batter into the dripping round the beef in its roasting tin.

He told me he enjoys worshipping at St James' as you manage to have a 'good old sing'. He developed his love of hymn singing when as a boy he was a chorister in the nearby Worcester College choir. He was also an altar boy. The choir had a cricket team and played friendly matches with other local choir teams. He recalled with a chuckle the time when a university drama group produced 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by the beautiful lake in Worcester College grounds and he and the other choristers were called upon to play elves and sprites. He stayed with the choir till his voice broke, aged fifteen.

By this time he had left school and started his first job. It was 1943, the middle of World War Two. He became a telegram delivery boy, equipped with his first bike. He found it a sad time as he often delivered bad news to wives or parents of their boys in the services. However there was a brighter side to life for our



fourteen year old, because working in the teleprinting room at the Post Office was a girl with the loveliest smile. Hilda was her name and she became the first and only girl for him. Nowadays a photo of her and her smile hangs on the wall opposite his armchair and though he lost her five years ago he still feels her very close. Their courting days consisted mainly of visits to the cinema. Her dad maintained a strict 9.30pm curfew, even the week before they married (!), so many a film ending was lost to them because of it.

The teenage lad, now a cyclist formed a cycle speedway team. Their track was on a recreation ground off Botley Road. They called themselves the 'Osney Falcons' Does anyone remember them? At eighteen he was called up into the R.A.F. as a flight mechanic. He married Hilda when they were both twenty and his mum let them use the box room in which to 'set up home'. After a posting to Germany where he transferred to an office job he was demobbed and returned to Oxford. He found employment at Kings of Oxford, the motorcycle people. Stan Hailwood was his boss. Cyril looked after Mike's (Stan's son) first small motorbike. Mike Hailwood went on to become a world champion motorcyclist.

Hilda and Cyril moved to their home in Cowley 51 years ago and their family grew. He is the proud father of 4 sons and 2 daughters, who have presented him with 21 grandchildren and $24\frac{2}{3}$ great grandchildren. (Could be that the $\frac{2}{3}$ will have been born by the time you read this). After a happy stint as a milkman and a fully trained terrazzo floor tiler he moved into the office of his elder daughters taxi firm in Abingdon. And what else? Well as a younger man, when his two sons joined the Cubs he volunteered to help with the pack eventually becoming Akela. Nowadays he spends his

time in his garden, takes part in various church activities and finds Friday bingo club unmissable. He describes St James' as warm and welcoming, as indeed is his home as soon as you walk in. He is still the willing, helpful person he was even in his school days. Something you cannot ignore is his enormous collection of fairies, pictures, miniatures, wall plaques etc. He told me he needs them to look after him just as the angels are caring for his dear Hilda.

How would you describe yourself as a child?

Fairly quiet, though I did get up to a bit of mischief.

Have you any childhood memories?

My mates and I crept into the pictures for free sometimes, only once we got caught. We were at the Ritz, where by mistake we got round behind the screen. We didn't half get it! On the corner of Rawlinson Road there used to be a beautiful William Pear tree. We used to bunk each other up to the wall so that we could scrumpt them. We used to shove 'em down our jumpers. Sometimes we'd get chased by the local copper. He knew just what we were up to. In a field near Port Meadow there was a carpet of cowslips. I used to pick them and sell bunches of them for pocket money. 'Course you can't do that now.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

He came and went. As a boy I went to Sunday school and of course there was the choir. Once Hilda died I started going to church and I've never stopped. I've never read a book in my life but I've started reading the New Testament. So that and my prayer group and religious programmes on the television are helping me.

What do you consider to be the best part of modern life?

Hospitals. If it hadn't been for good hospitals I wouldn't be here today.

What disappoints you about life in 21st century?

People are not as friendly as they used to be. I went out at midnight on New Year's Eve to say 'Happy New Year' to my neighbours like we used to do and nobody was about.

If you could change something spectacularly what would it be?

Stop all the wars. It's about time people got together and talked about the troubles.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Woodwork, gardening, fishing occasionally, nature programmes on TV. I love the birds in my garden. I spend pounds on food for them

What makes you laugh?

My children and listening to all the women talking at my prayer group!

Have you a hero or heroine, living or dead?

Princess Diana. There was never anyone else on earth quite like her.

Do you have any ambitions or plans for the future?

Keep fit and keep going to the end. I don't want to be a burden to anybody.





The Rev Dr Jo White, a vicar in Derbyshire, recalls her police chase...

Ever had a police escort to church? Last year as I drove along the quiet country lanes on my way to a neighbouring parish, where I had been invited to join their service, I was followed and then stopped. Blue lights flashing and sirens blaring. I kid you not!

It was 4 am on Easter morning and apparently the police regularly stop any car on that road at that time of night. It was very helpful for me though, as the policeman knew the church and led me to the correct turn off. Wonderful.

Why so early, do I hear you asking? Well, the service began outside the church building with prayers around a bonfire, from the flames of which the Paschal Candle was lit and from that then each congregation member's candle. We then took the new light symbolising the Light of Christ into the dark building and continued our service. The candle represents Christ's resurrection, a light shining in darkness, a light that will dispel the darkness of a world without God.

And it really was a completely dark building except for the held candles; I remember as I held one for the organist as the usual light bulb over his music had gone out. The timing worked excellently with the first rays of the new day filtering through the windows as the Gospel reading of that empty tomb was being read.

If you get a chance have a close look at a Paschal Candle, also called an Easter Candle. They're tall and quite thick, lit on Easter Day for the first time and then lit at all main services until Pentecost. After this they are often kept near the font and lit at Baptisms so that the individual's Baptismal candle to take home is lit from it. Some churches also light them at funerals.

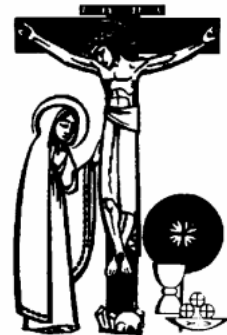
The candle is traditionally decorated with the sign of the cross, the symbol of life and death; alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, a reminder that Christ

is the beginning and the end of all things; the date of the year, a reminder that the Lord of all ages is present here and now, as well as remembering how many years since he rose from the dead (however inaccurate the dating may be); and five 'nails' inserted in the shape of the cross to symbolise the five wounds of Christ.

Have a close look at a Paschal Candle. What darkness do you want Christ's light to overcome or get rid of in your life or local community?

Holy Week and Easter at St Francis

Holy Week is a vital part of the Church's year. The whole congregation is encouraged to share with us as we recall, encounter, and seek to enter deeply into the events of this critical period of our Lord's life and work.



PALM SUNDAY

- 10.30 am Parish Eucharist and Procession
- 6.00 pm Stations of the Cross
- 6.30 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday in Holy Week

- 7.00 pm Eucharist and Silent Prayer before the Cross

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 10.00 am Children's Activity Morning
- 7.30 pm The Maundy Supper *at St James*
- 9.30 pm The Watch until Midnight *at St Francis*

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.00 am Children's Activity Morning
- 11.30 am Way of the Cross
- for young people - of all ages
- 2.00pm Good Friday Service

HOLY SATURDAY

- 9.15 am Morning Prayer (followed by breakfast)
- 7.30 pm The Easter Vigil

EASTER DAY

- 10.30 am SUNG EUCHARIST

The Holy Alphabet...

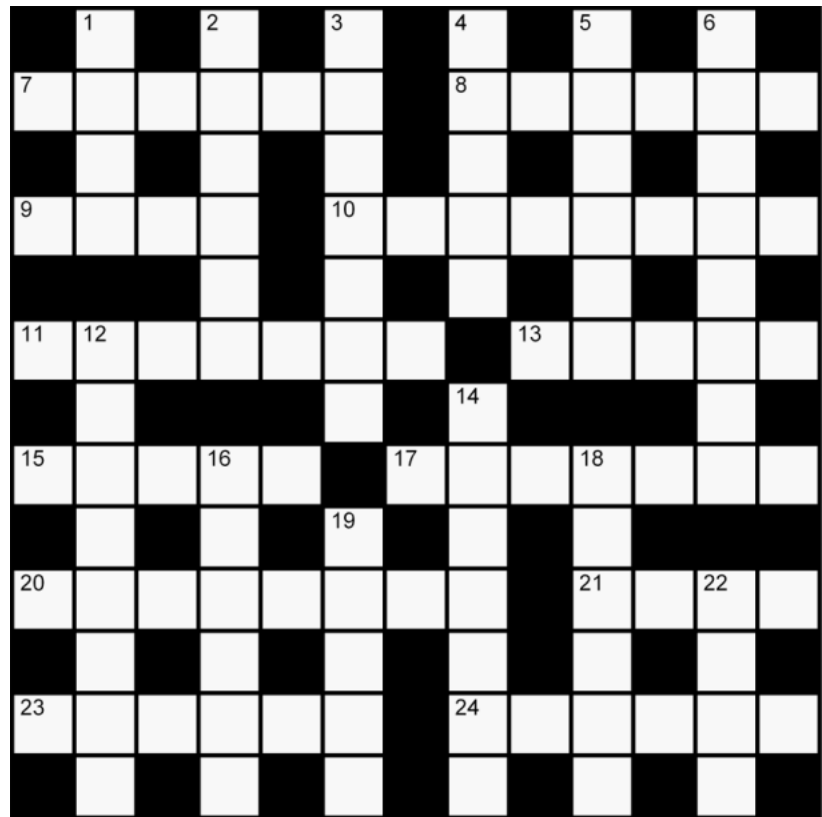


Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
 Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know
 Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him
 for all the things
 Love imparts to thee
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
X-alting God most high
Yes, there'll be good times and yes
 some will be bad, but...
Zion waits in glory...
 where none are ever sad!

February's Solution



March's Crossword



Clues Across

- 7 Emanating from God (6)
- 8 The act of going from one place to another (6)
- 9 One of the cardinal compass points (4)
- 10 A fellow-prisoner of Paul (8)
- 11 Vivid red (7)
- 13 Commonly encountered (5)
- 15 The emblem of Christianity (5)
- 17 Shoestring (7)
- 20 Discord that splits a group (8)
- 21 Being or occurring in fact or actuality (4)
- 23 Sacred city of the Hittites (6)
- 24 The basic unit of money in Israel (6)

Clues Down

- 1 A tubular wind instrument (4)
- 2 Marked by strong resentment or cynicism (6)
- 3 Wife of Ahab (7)
- 4 Lieu (5)
- 5 The place visited by Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary tour (6)
- 6 Mark as different (8)
- 12 Bishop adviser to the Pope (8)
- 14 Decorate (7)
- 16 Arachnid (6)
- 18 A prominent headland of Central Palestine (6)
- 19 A levy of one tenth (5)
- 22 One of the first children (4)

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) All Age Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
1.00 pm	Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

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>
	10.00 am	Toddler Group – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</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 James</i>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist - <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</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.

Day Off

Stephen has Friday off, Except in emergency, please try and respect this day of rest. Lorne can be contacted in the evenings and at weekends.

PARISH DIRECTORY

TEAM RECTOR:

The Revd Stephen Hartley,
Cowley Rectory,
Beauchamp Lane
Tel: 747680
email: stephen.hartley@btinternet.com

TEAM CURATE:

The Revd Lorne Denny
35 Stapleton Road
Headington
Tel: 768009
email: lornedenny@amserve.com

LICENSED LAY

MINISTER:

Eric Uren
Tel: 770696

CHURCHWARDENS:

Gwen Ranklin
Tel: 451417
Norah Shallow
Tel: 765199

DEPUTY WARDENS:

Rosanne Butler
Tel: 453257
Helen Doling
Tel: 779626