

A Real Happy New Year

Following Tuesday's morning prayer we gather in the church centre kitchen and prepare tea and coffee. If all is well we might have a biscuit; if all is very well a biscuit with chocolate. A week ago, laughing and joking about how blessed we were to have a hot drink, we were offered two chocolate biscuits. "Two chocolate biscuits – this must be a feast day. What are we celebrating?"

"Well, we are all getting ready for the First Sunday in Advent. That's a reason to celebrate."

It is indeed a day for celebration. The first Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of the New Year in the Church Calendar. It is the forgotten (but soon to be revived) real date for New Year celebrations.

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, "arrival" or "coming", the first season of the liturgical year begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends at sundown on Christmas Eve. From its origins in the 4th century, Advent was observed as a fast. Its purpose was to focus our attention on preparation for celebrating the birth of Christ at Christmas.

The modern Lectionary, particularly in the earlier half of the season of Advent, points us more toward the second coming of Christ, when "the wolf shall live with the lamb" (Isaiah 11:6) and when God will have "brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly" (The Magnificat, Luke 1:52).

So in this season we reflect on the two advents, or arrivals, of Christ. The Nativity, the birth of Christ, the coming of the Christmas celebration. And the Second Coming of Christ, for which, since we do not know when it will be,

we should always be ready for God will come suddenly.

These days a lot more fuss is made of the celebrations on 31 December, New Year's Eve and 1 January New Year's Day. Julius Caesar introduced a new, solar-based calendar in 46 BC and decreed that the new year would occur with January 1, and within the Roman world.

Medieval Europeans came to consider New Year celebrations as pagan and unchristian, so in 567 they abolished them. It wasn't until the Gregorian calendar was reformed in 1582, that January 1 was restored as New Year's Day. It was almost 200 years more before England began to celebrate the New Year in January.

As Christians we focus on the hope we see in each New Year. This hope is summed up in the words of Minnie Louise Harkins 1875-1957 and included in King George VI's Christmas broadcast of 1939.

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied,

"Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

May God bless you this Christmas and as you step into the New Year, placing your trust in Him.

Howard

Chronicle

Cowley Team Ministry

December 2010
January 2011

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Almost Advent already! I wonder if, like me, you are thinking, "Where has 2010 gone?" However, looking back over the year's copies of The Chronicle so much has happened in the Parish that it is no wonder the time has flown.

January, of course, is named after Janus the Roman god who had two faces, one looking back and one looking forward. It is a good idea to plan ahead, it always gives one something interesting to look forward to. Howard and a Parish Team have begun writing dates in the 2011 diary so I thought it might be helpful to mention one or two events to watch out for.

Alpha begins at the end of January. Una has written about it in this month's Chronicle so if you are thinking about following the course or if you can recommend it to someone you know please note the dates.

Our regular snowdrop weekends will be upon us before we know it. They will take place during the first and second weekends in February.

In March St James' Church is hosting the annual Women's World Day of Prayer service for Churches Together in Cowley. The format this year has been planned by the women of Chile. This would seem very apposite in the light of the incredible mine disaster and rescue earlier this year.

Looking further ahead still we are planning another Last Night of the Proms concert in the summer.

More about that in later issues! However, if you enjoy the whole atmosphere of a concert in our church featuring The Jubilee Brass Band and lots of jolly singing then the Evening of Music for Christmas on 11th December is a must for you. Bring along family and friends and get Christmas started with a swing. Ring me on 453257 for further information and tickets.

We seem to be well supplied with poems for this issue but I simply want to recommend to you Gwen Fancutt's lovely little piece entitled "Dawn". Gwen is well into her nineties and writes regularly for our magazine but this particular poem speaks volumes about her positive approach to each new day. Is there an idea for New Year resolutions here?

I wonder if you noticed the missing punch-line in the little joke in our last issue, the one with the cartoon picture of Dumbo, the flying elephant? Of course you did! Somehow it got lost in publishing so we are repeating it this month to make you smile.

Lastly, I'd like to thank you all for being so indulgent when your Chronicle team make the odd mistake. We are only amateurs and we do our best!

Phil, Sally and I would like to wish you all the happiest of Christmases and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

God Bless

Rosanne

CHRISTINGLE

Christingle was established by the Moravian Church in 1747 as a symbol of Christ's light and love. The Children's Society introduced it to the Church of England in 1968 and it has since become a popular family and community event.

The Christingle itself refers to the symbolic object made up of the following four components:

1. an orange - representing the world
2. a red ribbon (or tape) - indicating the blood/ love of Christ
3. a lighted candle - symbolising Jesus, the Light of the World
4. four cocktail sticks bearing dried fruit or sweets - signifying the four seasons and the fruits of the earth and God's good gifts

See [The Link for details of 2010 Christingle Service at St James' Church.](#)

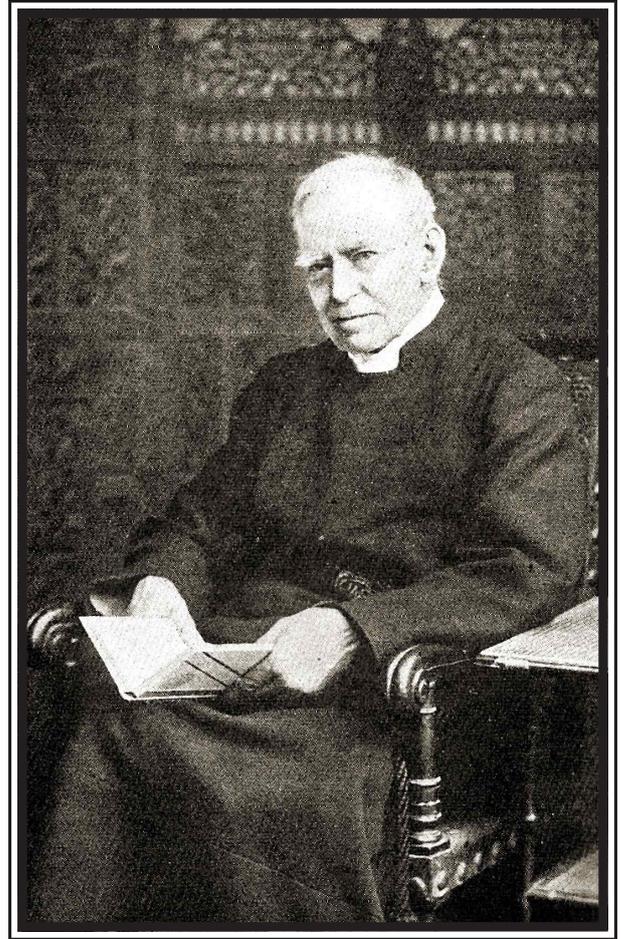


1950 – FATHER BENSON CENTENARY

I recently came across a copy of The Cowley Chronicle dated December 1950, the Father Benson Centenary Number. It is rather fragile but very precious not least because it contains Fr Whye's Christmas letter (perhaps December 17th ought to be a date on which we give thanks for Fr Benson every year?) I do hope our older readers, in particular, will find it interesting.

My dear Friends

A hundred years ago this month – to be exact, on 23rd December 1850 – the Rev Richard Meux Benson, student (or Fellow) of Christ Church, was instituted as Vicar of Cowley, an event which proved to be of the greatest significance to Church life both in East Oxford and throughout the Church of England. Cowley was in those days a parish small in number (probably only about 500) but large in area, extending right down to “The Plain” at Magdalen Bridge; but houses were beginning to spring up along the Cowley and Iffley Roads, at a considerable distance from the little old church of St James. It was Fr Benson who was instrumental in building the “Iron Church” as it was called, in that area, in 1859, and later the church of SS Mary and John, on the Cowley Road; and it was he who procured the separation of the parish of Cowley St John, and he became its first Vicar in 1870.



At the same time, after several years of study and prayer at Cowley, Fr Benson became the Founder of the first religious community for men to be formed in the Church of England since the Reformation. He began to live a community life in Cowley with two other priests, Fr Grafton (afterwards Bishop of Fond du Lac in the USA) and Fr O'Neill. After a year of preparation together, they took their vows on December 27th (St John's Day), 1866, and their community was called the Society of St John the Evangelist (SSJE), well known now as the “Cowley Fathers”.

During these hundred years since Fr Benson's Institution, both the Cowley parishes have grown beyond all expectation, and between them they contain nearly 50,000 people, or half the population of the City of Oxford. During these hundred years, also, the Cowley Fathers have, in addition to their work in all parts of this country, from their three centres in Marston Street, Westminster, and Edinburgh, spread to India, South Africa, Japan, the United States and Canada, in all of which countries they have houses as bases for their work.

So we have, as you see, abundant reason to thank God for the life and work of Fr Benson at the centenary of his Institution to this parish, and we shall make Sunday, December 17th, a day of thanksgiving at the Parish Church for his life and work, when Fr. Dalby, the present Superior-General of the Cowley Fathers, will be the preacher at Evensong, and the Bishop of Dorchester hopes to be with us, engagements permitting.

I am making an appeal to people in all parts of the world who are grateful for the life and influence of Fr Benson to send us a thanksgiving offering towards the provision of a new organ at the Parish Church as a memorial to him. I hope that many people in the parish will also send a donation during December for the same purpose. There are some still living who remember Fr Benson, who died at the age of 91 in 1915, but there are no doubt many more who owe a debt of gratitude to the ministrations of one or other of the Cowley Fathers. We do not forget in Cowley that a former assistant priest, Fr Wilks, is now one of them. Please help us all you can, so that we can soon get the money still required before we can have the new organ which is such an urgent need at Fr Benson's Parish Church of St James, the Mother Church of East Oxford.

Finally, a Merry Christmas to you all: and may the Christ of Bethlehem sanctify our homes with His Presence, and give us the true joy of Christmas, the joy of having Him in our hearts by coming to our Communion on His Birthday, in penitence and love.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar

ALEC G WHYE

Rosanne

ANGLICAN ASIAN LIVING CHURCH

The Anglican Asian Living Church is a registered charity. The Church is Anglican disciplined and is led by our Parish Associate Priest Rev Richard Chand who has been commissioned for special responsibility of Asian Christians in the Cowley Deanery. They hold their normal services on Sundays at 1pm with refreshments at the URC Temple Cowley and have House group Prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 7pm with refreshments. All are warmly welcome to their services and programmes.

Christmas programmes:

Saturday 18th December

House to House carol singing, Slough

Friday 24th December

Christmas Eve Service 5pm with a special Christmas children's drama

Saturday 25th December

Christmas Day service 1pm with refreshments & Father Christmas

Sunday 26th December

1pm service first Sunday of special Christmas Carol songs and music programme with refreshments

Friday 31st December

New Year's Eve Party starting at 8pm, includes entertainment and party with a special New Year prayer to break into the New Year 2011

Saturday 1st January

1pm New Year's Day Service and refreshments

The Asian Church wishes everyone in the Parish a Happy Christmas & a Happy New Year.

WOW, I WONDER

My father was a great story teller and would say to my brother and me occasionally "This one's true" and we would always answer "Yeah, OK dad".

He told us he was imprisoned with a famous cartoonist as an F.E.P.O.W. during the war, who asked him one day if he knew the origin of our surname - BOWEN. Dad was curious and was told the name was in the Doomsday Book and was descended from a line of German Kings called the BOHUNS, who all had red hair.

Dad asked us if we felt special being descended from royalty, albeit German and we humoured him "of course dad" but I did have red hair!

A while back though I read an article about Ronald Searle and his famous cartoons and caricatures which revealed he was a prisoner on the notorious Railroad of Death when they were herded there after the fall of Singapore in 1941, just like dad.

Could it be! Wow!! I wonder. Has anyone read the Doomsday book, please..... anyone!

Pat Sansom

The Origins of Cowley

Part Eight : Off with the old, on with the new

There is no doubt about it, the Saxon inhabitants of Cowley had a very tough time of it once their Norman conquerors had arrived, not least when they were ordered to pull down their church which had stood for centuries in the heart of their village. How sad, nay furious, they must have been to be told (in a language they did not even understand) to rip off the roof and tear down the walls of a church in which they had worshipped God for generations.

The Normans, despite the fact that they were ferocious warriors in battle purported to be deeply religious and could not accept that the tiny church, most probably built, lovingly, from Headington stone, was worthy to be used for divine service. Cowley was not alone in this terrible situation; many Saxon churches were destroyed at that time.

So it had to be torn down and a new one built in its place. The villagers were forced into this heartbreaking labour. The new church built in the early years of the twelfth century as its replacement is the very church in which we, at St James' worship today. In the Middle Ages it was described as "a simple, barn-like structure". It would seem that originally it comprised of the present-day nave and chancel entered on either side by round-arched doorways. The door on the south side was flanked by simple pillars with typical Norman capitals into which were inscribed sundials signifying the times of daily services. There was no side aisle, no porch, no tower and the windows would have been tiny arched openings. Glass, of course, was not used so wooden shutters were used to keep back the worst of the weather. Candles would give the interior a

soft, atmospheric glow. The floor was beaten earth and no seats were installed. There were leaning rails along the two side walls for elderly folk to use as supports during long services. By the way, this rail is the basis for the saying "gone to the wall" which is what you did when you were elderly.

The one concession which the Normans made to the old church would seem to be the font. In early times baptisms took place outside the church door as, incidentally, did marriages too. The font, therefore, would have been sited in the churchyard (Iffley church has an example of this). Experts in church architecture have assured me that our lovely old font, carved from one solid piece of stone, predates the Norman era because of its simplicity.

It is interesting to note that such a simple building was erected in Cowley when a couple of miles away, in Iffley, one of the most elaborate parish churches of the twelfth century was built.

By the time St James' church was completed the abbey at Osney had been given the care of the parish. Lady Edith D'Oilly, the daughter-in-law of the first Norman governor of Oxford can be seen, in the painting on the south wall of the church, presenting the consecrated building to the abbess. The date was 1129 AD.

And what of the other side, the everyday, working lives of our Saxon forebears? Well, resentment grew and was suppressed on every side through a series of restrictions, taxes and insensitivity to long-standing traditions. How the land was cultivated and how village life progressed will have to wait till the next instalment.

CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN ROUND THE WORLD

The Netherlands: In the Netherlands there is no Santa Claus or Father Christmas delivering presents on Christmas Eve. Instead the Dutch eagerly await December 5th for it is on this day that they celebrate the coming of St. Nicholas, whose legends of generosity and kindness are well known. On December 6th they celebrate with family doings, after which everyone settles down to prepare for Christmas Day on December 25th and secondly for December 26th or New Year and Three Kings Day on January 6th. Each has its own celebration.

Italy: Green, white, and red—the colours of Italy's national flag, and the traditional Christmas colours. In Italy, the Christmas season goes on for three weeks, starting 8 days before Christmas known as the Novena and lasts till after the Feast of Epiphany. During Christmas, small presents are drawn from a container

known as the "Urn of Fate". But the main exchange of gifts takes place on January 6, the feast of the Epiphany. They anxiously await a visit from "La Befana", a benevolent witch who, legend has it, was too busy to offer hospitality to the Wise Men when they called on their way to Bethlehem. Befana is said to be flying around ever since, looking for the Christ Child each year and leaving presents at every house with children in case he is there.

Spain: Here, the Christmas season officially begins on December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, which is a public holiday in Spain. Christmas is not as huge a commercial occasion as in most other western nations. Virgin Mary is the patron saint of Spain and Christmas is observed with great devotion and piety. It is a religious festival with an adequate measure of festive excitement. Children receive a small gift on the 25th morning

but they have to wait till the 6th of January (Epiphany) to get their actual presents, supposedly from the Three Wise Men (not Santa Claus) who are said to leave gifts for the children on the Eve of Epiphany, January 5th.

Sweden: The Swedish Christmas starts with the St Lucia ceremony on 13 December. The youngest daughter from each Swedish family puts on a white robe with a red sash and wears a crown of evergreens on her head with long, illuminated candles attached to it. With other children, she wakes her parents and serves them with coffee and Lucia buns. The festival, however, is observed most grandly on December 24, or Christmas Eve. In Swedish families, it is the mother who always lights the candles on the dawn of Christmas Eve. As in other nations, Christmas here is a holiday celebrated in the company of friends and family members.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Christmas decorations used to be put up on Christmas Eve and not before. Red and green are traditional Christmas colours – green represents the continuance of life through the winter and the Christian belief in eternal life through Jesus. Red symbolises the blood Jesus shed at his Crucifixion.

Holly was used by people in Britain to protect their homes from evil spirits (the word "holly" comes from "holy").

Mistletoe was a holy plant to the Druids, who used to cut it in winter with a golden sickle as a thanksgiving for the forthcoming spring. The Christian church has always forbidden it to be hung in places of worship because of these pagan associations.

The fir tree became a symbol of Christianity, hence its popularity as a 'Christmas' tree. The Queen gives two trees to St Paul's Cathedral each year, one of which stands outside, decorated with lights, and one of which is put inside for the congregation to leave gifts beneath for distribution to needy children and the elderly. The most famous of Britain's Christmas trees is that which is put in Trafalgar Square each year since 1946, a gift from the grateful people of Oslo for Britain's aid to Norway in the Second World War.

Nowadays, people take their decorations down before the end of the Twelfth Day of Christmas, on the 5th January. Up until the 19th century decorations of holly, ivy, box, yew, laurel and mistletoe would be kept up until 2nd February (Candlemas Day – 40 days after the birth of Christ).



2010 CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Of which occupation is Joseph the patron Saint?
2. The accepted definition by the Met Office of a white Christmas is for only one snowflake to land on the roof of the London Weather Centre. True or False?
3. By what seasonal name is the Helleborus Niger more commonly known as?
4. If you were served glogg at a Swedish Xmas party, would you eat it or drink it?
5. Which Christmas product made J. C. Hall a rich man?
6. What was the first thing that Scrooge purchased after his change of heart?
7. Which of Santa's reindeer shares its name with a high street store?
8. On what date do children in Italy and Spain receive their Christmas presents?
9. Who was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066?
10. From which country did the tradition of Christmas trees originate?
11. Which English Monarch was the first to broadcast their Christmas Message on television?
12. What is the next line from the poem, 'A visit from St Nicholas'?
'T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the house ...'
13. What do all creatures acquire on Christmas Eve in celebration of Christ's birth?
14. Which Christmas Carol asks you to bring us a Figgy Pudding?
15. Which two of Santa's reindeer's names mean 'Thunder' and 'Lighting'?
16. When was the last winter that a 'Frost Fair' was held on the frozen River Thames in London?
17. American Phillips Brooks wrote which popular Christmas carol?
18. Who wrote the Christmas story, 'The Snowman'?
19. Good King Wenceslas was king of which country?
20. What did the Sun newspaper print too early in December 1993?
21. If you participated in the 'Christmas census' held in North America, what would you be counting?
22. Which lake in Hyde Park is traditionally used for a Christmas swim?
23. What is the origin of Boxing Day?
24. If you were born on Christmas Day what would your zodiac sign be?
25. Who discovered Christmas Island in 1777?
26. What was the best selling Christmas toy of the 20th Century?
27. What is the date of The Epiphany?
28. What was Scrooge's business partner called?
29. Who ceased to be leader of Russia on Christmas Day 1991?
30. In which city can the world's biggest Christmas tree be seen each year?

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday, 14 December 2010

commencing at 8.00 pm

More "Tales of the Unexpected"

An illustrated talk by Alan Copeland

At United Reformed Church, Temple Road,
Cowley

Membership fee £15 (OAP £13)

Visitors welcome £3 per meeting

Turn to page 19 and reflect on your Christmas Trivia skills!

Rosanne Interviews **Betty Canterbury**

“Would you like a cup of tea?” asked Betty at the end of our interview. As we had been engaged in conversation for nearly two hours her offer was gratefully accepted. The tea was brought in on a tray complete with tray-cloth. Pretty china cups and saucers, matching teapot with biscuits on a plate all arrived. We sat in Betty’s cosy sitting-room surrounded by framed family photographs and I could have easily been mistaken into thinking (and you could too) that here was a lady perhaps a bit set in her ways. Don’t you believe it! Although I do get the impression that she likes things done properly there is more to her than that. Those people who have encountered her through her work with the Women’s Institute will vouch for her efficiency and strong personality. These same characteristics were used to good effect too, when she helped to campaign, with a photo in The Oxford Mail, for a regular bus service to run through the estate on the borders of Littlemore and Cowley where she lives. Betty is not afraid to speak up. Let’s hear her story.

She was born in Darlington but when she was only a few weeks old her mother died. She was taken to the city of Bath and placed in the care of her father’s sister and brother-in-law. The couple already had a daughter so baby Elizabeth, as she was then, became part of their family. She has nothing but praise for her aunt and uncle, calling them lovely people whom she learned to call mum and dad. Her elder “sister” Muriel too became a life-long friend. So, despite what could have been a disastrous start, her

home life was secure and loving.

Their home was right in the middle of Bath so she started school in a nice little city primary school. There she was very happy and developed a love of arithmetic, in fact all things mathematical, and reading. Writing was a problem because she is left-handed and sewing – oh dear! She found needlework a great trial and grew to dislike it intensely especially when she had her hand slapped for holding the needle in the “wrong” hand (can you imagine that happening in the classroom today?!!)

Secondary schooldays were also good. Her ability in maths and English developed and she also became an able hockey player. She found she had talent as a young athlete and represented Somerset in the schools championships. She told me with a twinkle in her eye that training sessions were fun as the girl’s and boy’s teams trained together. She made some good friends in her teens and still sends cards to a number of them at Christmas. At fourteen and a half Betty left school and went to work in the accounts office of the local Co-op.

Of course she grew up in war-time and recalls the terrible blitz suffered by Bath. She told me about one terrifying weekend when the bombing was relentless. She and her family took shelter in the basement of their home fearing that it would be hit. Other homes in their street were destroyed but theirs survived.

That same basement became a place of fun too for her. With an old wind-up gramophone, some Shirley Temple 78 rpm records and a pair of tap-shoes she would

sing and dance away to her heart’s content. With a school friend, she joined the choir of a church situated about three miles from her home. For years the girls walked through the park and on through the streets often for two services each Sunday and choir practice during the week. She also helped with afternoon Sunday school for a number of years. She loved the whole atmosphere of the church which she described as traditional.

Through the church choir she met John who soon became her special boy-friend. He would walk her home from choir practice though her adopted parents insisted that she must wait till she was sixteen before actually “going out” with boys. Even then a strict curfew was imposed and visits to the cinema or local dances had set times for returning home. John went off to serve in Burma in the RAF. On his return he bought Betty an engagement ring for her twenty-first birthday. They were married a year later. Much to her regret her adopted mum died six months before her wedding day.

On leaving the RAF John became an accountant and worked for British Road Services. Their first married home was a flat in Bath. Betty left her job and in 1952 their daughter, Mary, was born. Baby David came along in 1954 and then, after BRS had offered John promotion to a job in Cowley they made the move. In 1955 they bought the house where Betty still lives in Orchard Way. Because it is just over the border in Littlemore when Mary turned five years of age the designated school for her was Speedwell situated right up in the

village. Much of Betty's day for a number of years would be taken up with walking backwards and forwards, pushing David in the pushchair to see her daughter safely to and from school. The silly part of all this is that Church Cowley School is just around the corner.

She told me an extraordinary story about her long lost brother. Because she was just a baby when she left Darlington she had never learnt that seven years earlier her mother had given birth to a son. It was not until after the birth of Mary and while she and John and the baby were on holiday that her father-in-law received a 'phone call from a young man who said he was Betty's brother. He had discovered the whereabouts of his younger sister. The whole situation came to light through another aunt at a family wedding. Stunned but excited Betty and he met up and became very good friends for about ten years before he died.

For quite a while she did not belong to any church. She tried attending St Mary's in Littlemore but it did not feel right for her. She "found" St James through the WI. When the Parish Hall was no longer available as a meeting venue she heard about our

Church Centre. As a member of the committee she approached Fr Stephen to make enquiries. Because he was so welcoming and kind he opened the doors not only of the Centre but also those of the church. She has been a regular worshipper ever since. Along with so many people I interview she speaks with enthusiasm about the warmth and friendliness she finds there.

After serving as president and vice-president of Cowley WI, whilst not forsaking her loyalty to them she has now joined our Mothers' Union. It was lovely to welcome her into our branch on Sunday, 22 November, along with her friend, Vera. Betty is now very much part of our church family and it was a great pleasure to talk to her and share that welcome cup of tea.

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Very quiet, school brought me out. I was always a great reader.

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

I think it was John.

Has your faith been with you since you were young?

Yes, I started singing in the choir when I was twelve and my faith grew. I was confirmed at fifteen.

Do you have a treasured possession?

My engagement ring

What is your opinion of present-day society?

People seem to be very selfish and uncaring these days (though it does not apply to everybody thank goodness). Little things can make a difference, a smile can change someone's day.

If you could change something important in a spectacular way what would you do?

I would try to stop various faith groups criticising each other. We all have our personal beliefs. I would like us all to get along together.

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

My marriage and bringing up my children.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I read, mostly anything, well anything but science fiction.

Have you any plans for the future?

Just to take life a little easier

SMILE

"Doctor, I can hear all kinds of animals talking in my head."

"Well, don't worry", said the doctor, "you're just having **Disney spells**."

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he ventured: "Did you start at 1?"

Confidence is that feeling you have just before you fully understand the situation.

Interviewer: "If you could have dinner with any person, living or dead, who would it be?"

Applicant: "The living one."



SAINT OF THE MONTH St Wulfstan

The 19th of January is St Wulfstan's Day. His story tells of humility and humanity in England at a time of great upheaval and change.

As a young man, born in 1009, in the Anglo-Saxon period, he is described as handsome, engaging in manners, fond of social life and skilled at sports and games. At a time when there were no social services, nor provision for care of the elderly, his parents chose to end their days in cloistered protection while Wulfstan, maybe persuaded by them, became a monk. He spent twenty-five years in a monastery in Worcester and rose to the position of prior. Despite being told by a superior that monks should not preach he insisted that there were no boundaries to God's Word and that he would continue to bring His message to the poor.

He rose to become bishop of Worcester and was a true shepherd of his people. He loved children and parents walked many miles to have their infants baptised by him. He would spend whole days confirming Christians not even resting to take food until sunset. He never missed a day to attend services even on his long diocesan journeys. There is a story of him travelling to Marlow one winter's day when the roads were virtually impassable and his companions begged him to rest. He insisted in pressing on to church. He lost a shoe in a snowdrift but went on all the same.

He was a great church builder but maintained that the souls within the buildings were more precious. He spoke with tears in his eyes as he gazed at his beautiful new Worcester cathedral for the many souls still to be saved. King Edward the Confessor had chosen him to be a bishop even though he protested that he was unworthy.

When the Normans invaded Britain Wulfstan was fifty-seven years old. The new conquerors despised and mocked him for his homely appearance and simplicity. They said he was unpolished and called

him a fool because he could not speak French. He was summoned to Westminster to an inquiry on the grounds of his incapacity and lack of learning. Even during the inquiry he insisted on holding Holy Communion and at one point in the judicial proceedings actually fell asleep! In his defence he told the gathering that his duty to God was more important than petty disputes.

It is said that whilst in Westminster Abbey he visited the tomb of King Edward laying his staff upon it and resigning it to him. The story goes that the staff remained fixed to the tomb. No-one could remove it, not even the King or the archbishop yet Wulfstan picked it up easily. It was a miracle and he was declared innocent. His simple goodness won the day.

He was restored to his bishopric. The archbishop became his friend and helped him to put down the slave trade with Ireland which operated out of Bristol in the eleventh century. Wulfstan ended the slave trade by his simple Christian teaching, week after week. He must have known about, or even visited the churches in our area. He is a worthy person to be our saint of the month we hope you agree. He died on January 19th 1095 at the remarkable age of eighty-six.

DAWN

*Ev'ry day is a miracle
God makes the world anew
The grey light breaks
And brings another day*

*Ev'ry morning is wonderful
The dark skies turn to blue
As moon and stars
Grow faint and fade away*

*Ev'ry day is a mystery
Our portion of the earth
Swings once more across
The sun's bright track*

*Ev'ry dawn we are born again
Ev'ry day a strange rebirth
As consciousness returns
And life comes back*

Gwen Fancutt

ST FRANCIS NEWS

Plans for our special 80th Anniversary next year are still ongoing, and the thinking at the moment includes an event covering more than one day – but nothing has been firmed up yet.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service went well. We managed to slot a few thoughts and an appropriate poem plus the usual time of silence in between our liturgy and that was well received. We were also blessed with an exceedingly fine mural especially done for the occasion by our Rainbows and Brownies.

Joyce Titchell has done very well again this year with her Christmas Shoeboxes for the Children. Her own individual report on this will follow.

On the maintenance side, Norah Shallow has plans to repaint the main hall with volunteer help, but has come across a snag over insurance. We are still waiting for our new side door to be fitted. A drainage problem at the front of the church is being addressed.

The Emergency Food Bank is still operating in the church. Contributions are still coming in, and are increasingly in demand in the current recession.

We look forward to our special Christmas Services, and as usual, we shall be indebted to Patrick and his friends for some appropriate music.

John Shreeve

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL – NEWS

Year 5/6 Science Magic Show

This new term the year 5/6 classes are focusing on Science, materials in particular. To start their topic with a bang they enjoyed a special magic show. This is what the children thought:

I really had a fantastic time. My favourite bit was the coin trick because it was interesting to know that a French franc is magnetic.- Sarah Nadeem

It was brilliant. I hope we have another Science show later in the year. The best part was seeing which of the six ways for identifying the French franc worked. - Jake Richards

I recommend him coming again because it was fantastic. I enjoyed every single bit especially when Louie nearly got soaked in water. – Maisy Harper

Cycle Speedway

Sixty children from Years 4, 5 and 6 attended a special day where they took part in BMX obstacle courses and the extremely exciting sport of Cycle Speedway. We hope to give the children a further cycling opportunity in the summer.

I would recommend the school goes to Cycle Speedway again. IT was Brrriillleeeaaannttt. - Tommy Craft

It was so much fun. My favourite part of the day was the racing.- Natasha Day

ST JAMES CRAFT AND GIFTS FAIR

This year once again we had a successful Craft Fair - to date we have raised £800 but are still selling Christmas foliage arrangements and wreaths so there will be a little more to come. A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a success, whether helping on the day, or making cakes, preserves, crafts, decorations and other things to sell for St James. An especially big thank you to Christine Woodman for her endless help in the kitchen on the day and preparations beforehand, it would not be such a big success without her organisation in this area. This year stallholders did not do as well as they had in the past. We had a good variety of interesting crafts but it was clear that people were being more careful about spending and we did not get as many through the door – particularly later in the day. It is important that stallholders continue to sell well otherwise they will be deterred from coming again. I hope by our next Fair in 2012 the financial climate will be a bit better than it is at present, so we will be back then. Proceeds will go to the fabric fund.

Pauline Shephard

Gardening

There is so much to do, now that we are closing the garden down for the winter and preparing it for the new season 2011. The trees are dropping their leaves to conserve energy as they close down ready for their burst of life in the new season. Many of us are also conscious of a drop in energy levels. Luckily the bulbs will wait a-while for us to plant, so long as we keep them cool and not too dry.

In the spring I thinned out the autumn sedums, pulling out a few of the shoots (which I then rooted for the May sale). This has really had an amazing result on the flowers. Instead of flopping open, the flower shoots are upright and look really good. I really advise doing this next spring if your sedums are flopping open. (Hopefully it also raised some money too).

At the moment the cyclamen in the garden look really pretty, both the bowls of colour and the neapolitanum and coum varieties in the soil. The latter have done really well this year, sending delicate flowers peeping out in various places where I had forgotten they existed. I love seeing their seed stems coiling down into the soil where the mice (with my cat visitors) can move them around to germinate elsewhere. The seeds don't move far, just spread out a bit.

The clematis is nearly ready for me to wind it into wreath. The berry-less holly looks good for Christmas, and the pyracantha and cotoneaster are full of berries for the birds over winter. I have folded some toilet rolls centres and pushed them into small open-ended lemonade bottles. These I have hung up in the bushes for the insects. I hope that they will give homes to some beneficial insects. Other toilet roll centres can be used in the spring for growing beans and sweet peas. These need long root growth and enjoy some extra food from the rotting card. (Incidentally, I hope that you have a compost heap, even if it is only for potato peelings and apple skins.)

So the garden is preparing for the winter - all things that require energy. Has anybody got a recipe for energy? Enjoy your preparations.

Diana Pope

SEASHELLS

Seashells will close on 21st December 2010 until 4th January 2011.

It has been another very successful year. In spite of losing several of our little regulars who started school in September, we have gained some even smaller ones who we shall have much pleasure watching their progress as they grow.

Our attendance numbers have been maintained throughout the year at between 25 - 30 per week.

We would very much like to thank all our helpers for their efforts over the year, without them we could not function.

On 14th December we hope that Father Christmas will put in an appearance. We would welcome any members of the congregation who would like to call in for a cup of tea/coffee. The same applies on any Tuesday between 10 and 11.30.

Finally from us all at SEASHELLS may we wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

May Morgan

NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK OF EASTER!

CHURCH EGG TO CRACK OPEN TRUE MESSAGE OF EASTER

Britain's first Easter egg to mention Jesus on the packaging will go on sale next year. The Real Easter Egg, devised by the Church of England, explains the Christmas understanding of Easter on the box and is made from Fairtrade chocolate. The £3.99 price includes a donation to Baby Lifeline, which supports mothers and newborns, and farming development charity Traidcraft. Church schools are being encouraged to place orders by December. It is hoped that all our supermarkets will stock the first and only Easter egg in the UK that explains the significance of Easter.

SHOULD WE PRESS THE LOCAL CO-OP TO STOCK THESE EGGS?

OUR JIM



Everyone who went on the Parish Holidays will remember this character, who was held in high esteem (Jim the coach driver):

He rides the roads with ease and grace
Content to keep a steady pace.
He keeps his deadlines, finds his way.
My SAT.NAV'S in my head, he'd say,
He drives with care, obeys the rules
Road rage is for idiots and fools.
He knows where to go on rainy days,
And keeps up interest with his ways.
The elderly, infirm and frail
Know that in him they cannot fail
To find a caring word and hand
When in their weakness they cannot stand.
One day like us his time will come nigh
And he will go to the great highway in the sky.
Then when the future is to the fore,
You might hear a tap, TAPPINS at your door
Don't shake with fear, or run away
It will only be JIM, He's not come to stay.

We will start at nine, you will hear him say.

OUR JIM

Anon

We are sure that all the travellers will want to wish Jim a
VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

WASSAILING

The traditional English Christmas drink was wassail, so-called from the Saxon greeting 'waes hael' ('be well'). It was made from heated ale, roast apples, eggs, sugar and spices, and was carried from household to household in a wooden bowl.

Wassailing falls into two distinct categories. The house-visiting wassail, very much similar to caroling, is the practice of people going door-to-door singing Christmas carols (e.g., "Here we come a-wassailing / among the leaves so green").

There is also the orchard-visiting wassail which refers to the practice of singing to trees in apple orchards in cider-producing regions of England to promote a good harvest for the coming year.

Mothers' Union News



The most exciting news for our branch is that our membership is growing. We have recently welcomed two former members who have rejoined Mothers' Union and three new members will have joined our ranks before Christmas.

Our November meeting, with a much anticipated talk by Mark Oxbrow, was very well attended. Along with eighteen members we welcomed several visitors. Mark's illustrated talk about his recent experiences in Ethiopia was very interesting and demonstrated how the Church out there is growing to the extent that services are often held in huge tents. Mark's pen-friend from childhood days is now a grandfather and we saw pictures of his grandson and his friends, young teenagers, at their baptism service.

On 1st December a contingent from Cowley will be spending a day at Benson when we shall attend our area's Winter Meeting. The theme for the key-note talk will be the importance of suppressing the exploitation of children. In other words, making childhood important.

The December meeting as ever will be a tea-party with readings and carols. After tea we usually bring along light-hearted reading all about Christmas. The date for this meeting will be Monday, 13th December.

REPORT OF COWLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met on the 16th November 2010 at St James Church Centre, when the following was discussed:

- Closer links with the Anglican Asian Christian Living Church
- The Vision and Purpose of the Church – how to move forward
- Cowley Deanery – Mission Plan: It has the honour of hosting the Joint Deanery Synod on the 26th May 2011
- Progress reports on:
 - (a) The application for work at St James Church – the official notice has been posted at the church
 - (b) The old school buildings
 - (c) Work required at St Francis Church
- 80th Anniversary Celebrations for St Francis Church are planned for 18th March 2011 – the celebrations will take place over the weekend with a special service on the Friday.
- Friends of Cowley – a draft constitution is being drawn up
- The provision of an audio-visual system at St James Church Centre

THE HEALING SERVICE

The Healing Service takes place on the first Thursday of each month, alternately in St James' and St Francis' churches at 7.30pm. This service is for anyone who wishes to attend. During this Eucharist service we have the opportunity to be anointed with Holy oil if we so want and a chance for prayer. This prayer can be for ourselves, for someone else or a group of people. It can be a prayer for a disaster in the world, for the wars and conflicts or anything we wish to pray about. If we wish we can attend the service and pray quietly ourselves, there is no compulsion to pray in public.

This service has been happening for a number of years now and has seen minor miracles, and is a source of calm in times of trouble. It is friendly, confidential and soothing. There is a strong feeling that the Holy Spirit is present.

PRAYER FOR ALPHA

Dear Lord

Please guide our planning for the Alpha course due to start on January 28th.

Please bless the prospective guests.

Please help us to invite our friends and neighbours.

Please give us the grace to run the course successfully.

Dear Lord, we pray that we will be able to show Christians more about our faith and to bring unbelievers into the Christian family.

Thank you.

Una Dean

CUSTODIANS OF OUR PLANET - RECYCLING JUST GOT EASIER!

Well done to Oxford City Council for making our recycling so much easier, collecting all our clean, dry rubbish together and collecting so much more than ever before! So we now can give them ALL that plastic food packaging and nearly every kind of paper and even cling film! And of course all the food waste, separately.

The 'no thank you' list is now really short - of our usual Church Centre rubbish, it is just crisps and sweet packets, polystyrene and anything that is unwashed.

The information leaflet from the council is really clear so please make sure you read it carefully; wash all your rubbish and then give it away!

The Guides at St James could make very good use of any of the old green and blue crates you have been left with, having received the new large recycling bins: they are just great for storing camping equipment! Please contact Cynthia Retter (tel: 711429) if you would like them collected.

Lesley Williams

QUIET DAYS AT STANTON HOUSE

Have you ever walked into a house, a garden, a church, a castle and felt an atmosphere, a dimension beyond explanation? Stanton House, out in the Oxfordshire countryside most definitely has an atmosphere which closes round you the moment you enter the front door. It is an atmosphere of tranquillity and peace.

I discussed this the other day with Helen Beetham and discovered that she experiences it too each time she visits the house and that is why she and Tony chose Stanton as the venue for their parish Quiet Days. These days are quite the most refreshing and spiritual experiences and if you have not yet been lucky enough to book a place to go to one I can only urge you to listen out for the date of the next one. Helen tells me she is planning one in May.

I have been to two Quiet Days at Stanton, one in the spring and one in the autumn - both very special. Helen and Tony have set out a formula for the day which is guaranteed to speak to you personally and individually. On arrival, after coffee, the small group meets in the lovely lounge of the Regency-style house where Helen introduces the theme for the day. She offers thoughts and ideas for meditation and at no time lectures. Then each person is given time to meditate on her theme through prayer.

In the spring I took my thoughts out into the beautiful grounds where the birdsong and scents of the may blossom and mown grass brought me closer to God than any amount of rushing around ever could.

For my autumn meditations I found a deep, cosy armchair in the corner of the hall and, closing my eyes, felt the wonderful prayerful atmosphere of the house close around me.

In all, throughout the day, there are three sessions when Helen develops her theme and three sessions of absolute quiet to bring your thoughts to God. In the middle of the day a simple lunch is served when plenty of chat and laughs are shared. At the end of the day Tony presides over a simple Eucharist after which we share tea and cakes and all go home.

Chris Woodman has taken on the task of booking places for Quiet Days. I hope from what I have described you might be keen to experience one. You will have to be quick once the lists go up in church, though, because several of us have already declared ourselves ready for more – more of the amazing refreshment that these beautiful days provide.

Rosanne

THE RESULT OF THE RIDE AND STRIDE

As promised I can now let everyone know the final total of sponsor money collected from the Historic Churches Ride and Striders in our parish. We have reached the magnificent sum of £637.15, not quite as high as last year's total but, in the present economic climate, none-the-less a great result. You may wonder where the 15p came from. Well I can tell you. A young man came in to Tuesday lunch club one day in the autumn and asked what I was doing with sponsor forms on the table. I explained. He, obviously not a wealthy man, in fact, quite the reverse, paid for his lunch and then turned out his pockets donating his every last penny. The amount he gave me was £1.65. I was very touched. Now I need to thank everyone who either walked, rode, greeted people in the churches or donated sponsor money. Between us we have once again made Ride and Stride day a big success.

Rosanne



NOTABLE DATES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December 1st 1586 saw the potato introduced into Britain by Sir Francis Drake.

On **December 8th 1980** John Lennon was shot in New York.

On **14th December 1911** Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, became the first person to reach the South Pole.

Beethoven's 5th and 6th Symphonies were given their first performance in Vienna on **22nd December 1808**.

On **31st December 1923** the chimes of Big Ben were first broadcast to the nation at midnight.

January 8th 1935 saw the birth of Elvis Presley in the State of Mississippi, USA

Harry Gordon Selfridge founded Britain's first departmental store in London's Oxford Street on **January 11th 1909**.

January 25th during the middle Ages was called Dismal Day. It was also considered an unlucky day.

On **January 28th 1596** Francis Drake died on board his own ship.

Queen Victoria instituted the Victoria Cross on **29th January 1856**, the award for spectacular bravery in wartime.

Lord Nelson's statue plus the four lions at its base were unveiled in Trafalgar Square on **January 31st 1867**.

HOLY BIBLE v MOBILE PHONE

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our mobile phone?

What if we carried it around in our handbags or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we travelled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go ... hmm ... where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing

Unlike our mobile phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill

Makes you stop and think where are my priorities? And no missed calls!

When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you!

WALK THRU THE BIBLE

Saturday 23 October saw the Parish of Cowley host a Walk Thru the Bible day in the church centre. This seminar focussed on the Old Testament and had as its goals to

- walk through the major people, places and events of the Old Testament
- arrange the major people, places and events in chronological order
- locate the major geographical movements of the Old Testament
- know the key words for the Old Testament books of history

The style of teaching used by Martin Davies, the Seminar Instructor, helped us memorise what we were taught and all the participants were given a useful workbook to take home. One of the features of the Day that people commented on as being particularly helpful was that although they already were familiar with many of the Old Testament stories, we are not always aware how they all fit together. We came away more aware of this.

It was generally felt to be a helpful day and another day is booked for October 2011, but this time a Walk thru the New Testament Seminar.

RECIPES

Gingerbread

As gingerbread is a traditional Christmas goodie and as this recipe means that you can make it up well ahead I thought I'd share my mum's lovely gingerbread with you.

Ingredients

- 12oz flour
- 3 teaspns ground ginger
- 4oz butter or margarine
- 3oz brown sugar
- 4oz golden syrup
- 1 level teaspn bicarbonate of soda
- About 1/8th pint milk
- 2 small eggs

Grease a 7-8 inch Yorkshire pudding tin

Sieve together flour and ground ginger

Put fat, sugar and syrup into a saucepan and heat gently stirring until all are melted together

Dissolve bicarb with milk and stir into dry ingredients

Add liquid fat mixture and eggs

Mix thoroughly to very soft consistency

Pour into prepared tin and bake in a slow oven for 1¼ - 1½ hours till firm to touch

Cool on a cake rack and cut into squares

The best part of this lovely gingerbread is that if you shut it into an air-proof tin it gets stickier and more yummy

Cook uncovered for 30 minutes at Gas Mark 7 or equivalent electric oven heat.



Turkey and Ham Cobbler

A tasty dish for the leftovers

Ingredients (six servings)

- 1 large onion
- 1 oz margarine
- 1 oz plain flour
- 1 x 14oz can of tomatoes
- 1 tsp Basil
- 8 oz cooked ham
- 1 lb cooked turkey
- Salt and Pepper for seasoning

Topping:

- 8oz self raising flour
- 2oz margarine
- Salt for seasoning
- Milk for mixing
- Beaten egg (optional)

Slice onion, and fry it in the margarine until it just begins to colour

Stir in the plain flour and cook for 2-3 minutes

Drain the juice from the tomatoes and make it up to ½ pint with water

Add the basil, tomatoes, salt and pepper to the onion mixture gradually and stir

Chop the ham and turkey into chunks, add to the sauce

Bring to the boil, stirring frequently. Transfer to an oven-proof casserole dish

Topping: sieve the self raising flour and salt into a bowl. Rub in the margarine until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add enough milk to make a smooth soft dough. Roll out the dough to a thickness of ½ in. Cut out about 14 rounds using a 2in cutter and arrange closely together to cover the turkey and ham mixture. Brush the tops of the scones with milk or beaten egg.

Christmas Services

Carols by Candlelight	St Francis: 18th December 2010 at 4 pm St James: 19th December 2010 at 4 pm Both followed by refreshments
Children's Crib Service	<i>Christmas Eve</i> St James and St Francis: 4.00 pm
Midnight Mass	<i>Christmas eve</i> St Francis and St James: 11.00 pm
	<i>Christmas Day</i> St James: 10.00 am St Francis: 10.30 am
	<i>St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day)</i> St James: 10.00 am St Francis: 10.30 am

Dates to Remember

Christmas Concert 2010	Saturday, 11 December at 7.30 pm St James Church Followed by supper in the Church Centre £12.00, including supper : Tickets on sale: 01865 453257
Mothers' Union Tea-Party with readings and carols	Monday, 13th December at 2.30 pm St James Church Centre at 2.30 pm.
Cowley Local History Society	Tuesday, 14 December 2010 commencing at 8.00 pm At United Reformed Church, Temple Road, Cowley More "Tales of the Unexpected" - An illustrated talk by Alan Copeland
Cowley Women's Institute Monthly meetings	St James Church Centre – 3rd Wednesday of month from 2 – 4.30 pm Next meeting: 15th December
Alpha Course 2011	Friday Evenings from 28 January 2011 St James Church Centre £3.00 per session (The course will last 11 weeks, a ten week course plus a Holy spirit Day in the middle on a Saturday.)

LIBRARY SERVICE FOR BORROWERS UNABLE TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES

If you are unable to get to the Library but wish to borrow books, let the staff in any Oxfordshire library know so that they can update your records. A friend can also let the library know for you – they should take your library card with them to the library or, if you do not have a card, they can obtain one for you if they take evidence of your name and address.

The WRVS provides the Home Library Services in conjunction with the local library service. A friendly volunteer will bring a selection of books, videos, DVDs, CDs and audio tapes to your home on a regular basis.

THE CHRISTMAS STAR

“Mummy, I’m the star,” she told me,
 In the playground, one cold winter day.
 Of course, the Christmas production!
 (They’d been told of the parts they would play).

A star? Oh would she play Gabriel?
 The narrator, her voice clear and true?
 Or p’rhaps she’s be playing the Virgin
 In a veil of beautiful blue.

“What should she wear?” I’d asked teacher.
 “Something simple and plain,” she had said,
 So I made her a gown of white sheeting
 With a circlet of stars for her head.

“We’ll rock you,” they all sang with gusto.
 The shepherds brought toy, woolly sheep.
 Three straight-back small kings brought presents
 While Mary rocked Jesus to sleep.

My husband took shots with his camera
 To send to aunts, grannies and such
 But we didn’t need digital pictures
 We were smiling with pride far too much.

At the back of the scene in the stable
 A foil star hung catching the light
 And a dearly-loved six-year-old held it
 Quite still, in her gown of pure white

Not a single movement we noticed
 As she gazed at the new baby King.
 Her eyes met mine with love and with pride.
 Our star made her parents’ hearts sing.

Rosanne Butler

Mulled Wine

I am sure you have your own version but how does this compare?

Ingredients (serves 10):

- 2 x 75-cl bottles medium to full-bodied red wine
- 1 orange studded with cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 4 oranges, sliced
- 8 tablespoons granulated sugar
- Freshly grated nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons brandy

Put all the ingredients in a saucepan with 2 pints of water, then heat to simmering point, stirring until all the sugar has dissolved. Keep it barely at simmering point for at least 20 minutes – but do not boil or all the alcohol will evaporate.

This can be made in advance, then re-heated just before the party. Serve it warm in mugs or sturdy wine glasses.

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ SOLO - ANSWERS

1. Carpenters
2. Tree
3. The Christmas Rose
4. Drink it it is a hot-spiced drink made from wine or spirit
5. Christmas cards (JC Hall of 'Hallmark Cards')
6. A Turkey
7. Comet
8. 25th January (The Eve of Epiphany)
9. William the Conqueror
10. Germany
11. Queen Elizabeth II
12. 'Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse'
13. The power of speech
14. We wish you a Merry Christmas
15. Donner and Blitzen
16. 1813/14
17. O Little Town of Bethlehem
18. Raymond Briggs
19. Bohemia
20. The Queen's Christmas speech
21. Birds
22. The Serpentine
23. It was the day when the charity boxes in churches were opened and the money distributed to the poor of the parish
24. Capricorn
25. Captain Cook
26. Lego
27. January 6th (the 12th day of Christmas)
28. Jacob Marley
29. Mikhail Gorbachev
30. New York

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

Every fourth Sunday: *Church at the Centre*

Every third Sunday: *Sunday Lunch*

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am Parish Eucharist

Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	8.15 am 2.30 pm	Morning Prayer – St James Parish Mothers' Union – St James (3rd Mon)
Tuesday	8.15 am 10.00 am 12.00 pm 12.30 pm 2.30 pm	Morning Prayer – St James Seashells Toddler Group : St James Eucharist – St James Tuesday Lunch Club – St James Friends of St Francis – St Francis (2nd & 4th Tues)
Wednesday	8.15 am 9.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James Morning Prayer – St Francis
Thursday	8.15 am 7.30 pm	Morning Prayer – St James Healing Service (1st Thurs) St James/St Francis (alternate months)
Friday	8.15 am 5.30 pm	Morning Prayer – St James Evening Prayer – St James

Home Groups

Leader

Una Dean

Time / Venue

Alternate Monday mornings at 10:15am in
Una's home

Connie Uren:

Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm
in St James Church Centre Lounge

Friends of St Francis:
(John Streeve/Moll Oliver)

Tuesday alternate afternoons at 1:30pm in
St Francis Church

Tony Beetham

Alternate Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in
St James Church Centre Lounge

Patrick Gilday:

Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm
in St Francis Church upper room

Rosanne Butler

Alternate Thursday mornings at 10:30am
in St James Church Centre Lounge

Mark Oxbrow

Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in
Mark's home

**The Parish of Cowley office in
St James Church Centre is open**

Thursday 12.45 pm to 4.30 pm
Friday 9.00 am to 1.15 pm
and by appointment.

Parish Secretary:
Elaine Ulett

Ministry Team Telephone:
01865 747 680
parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk

Team Rector

Revd Howard Thornton

Cowley Rectory
11 Beauchamp Lane
Oxford OX4 3LF
Howard has Friday as his day off.

Team Vicar

Revd Susannah Reide

27 Don Bosco Close
Oxford OX4 2LD
Susannah has Monday as her day off.

Associate Priest

Revd Richard Chand

richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Non-Stipendiary Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

13 Annesley Road
Oxford, OX4 4JH
Tel: 01865 461953
markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Amanda Bloor

Diocesan Church House
North Hinksey
Oxford OX2 0NB
Tel: 01865 208 221
parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602

Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens:

Margaret Martin Tel: 718532

John Shreeve

Hall Bookings

Pat Sansom Tel: 778516