

Remember

November. It's the month of remembering. Remember, remember the fifth of November; gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder, treason should ever be forgot. And judging by the millions of pounds worth of fireworks that explode each Guy Fawkes' night, I'm sure it never will be forgotten.

There are other remembrances this month too. On the 4th of November, at our annual service of remembrance and thanksgiving, we remembered the loss of those people for whom we are in mourning.

Laurence Binyon studied at Oxford University in 1890. On 21st September 1914 the Times published his poem which is now seen in churches all over England, and heard by millions each 11th November.

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.*

We remember those who gave their lives that we might have freedom. It is important to learn from our past. As Sir Winston Churchill famously said, those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

We rely on memory for our identity. How often have I run up stairs to get something, only to find at the top of the stairs I have forgotten what it was? Urrrg. We all find those experiences frustrating. Bill Cosby, the American humorist and philosopher bemoaned the fact of getting older and forgetting things and his slips of the memory. He would make up a poem in his mind to help remember where he had parked his car. Roses are red, my Valiant is blue, an A1 car, in row A2. By the time he was leaving the shopping mall the original verse had taken wings and all he could think of was Roses are red, my care must be near. Am I insured for losing it here?

Simon and Garfunkle sang about

memory. *Time it was, and what a time it was. It was a time of innocence, a time of confidences. Long ago, it must be. I have a photograph. Preserve your memories; they're all that's left you. Our memories, and how we are remembered, help make us who we are.*

Think how important it is for us to remember a person's face, their name, and something about them. What happens when someone is forgotten? The person feels insulted, unloved, unimportant, rejected, or insignificant.

When disaster struck, when the floods came, and Noah and his family had been in the ark for almost 10 months, they wondered if they would ever see the sunshine again. They wondered if they would survive. The Bible says something significant "But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded." When we're in trouble and having a hard time, it's good to know that someone is thinking about us, remembering us. And if the One thinking of us is the Creator of all the universe, it's even better.

It happens again and again. The Bible tells us that God remembered Abraham and saved him and Lot. He remembered Rachael and listened to her. He remembered the people of Israel who were slaves in Egypt and he heard their groaning and found a way for them to be set free. There are many other times in which the people of God are remembered by him. As Christians we believe that he remembers us, knows us by name.

We want to be remembered well. The Psalmist pleads with God *Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways. Instead he asks God to remember me according to your love for you, LORD, are good.*

Howard

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2007

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham known as England's Nazareth is in the County of Norfolk in the village of Little Walsingham.

In the year 1061 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in a vision to Recheldis de Faverches and took her in spirit to Nazareth and showed her the house in which the Holy Family lived during our Lord's earthly life. She commanded Recheldis to build a copy of this house in England and showed her the place to build it by a spring of water which became the Holy Well in which, used in faith, brought health to the sick and needy.

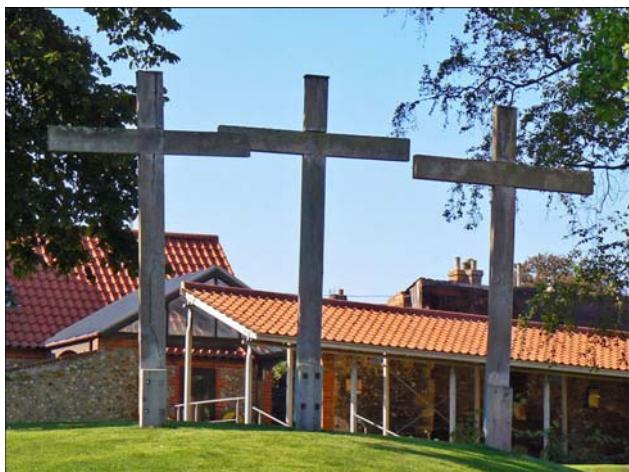
Walsingham became a great place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages, visited by kings and by many in great numbers. A Priory was built and the ruins are still in the village and also a Friary was built to accommodate the pilgrims. At the Reformation the shrine was destroyed and the Friary dissolved and put to secular use.

The Restoration began in 1922 when the Vicar of Walsingham, Alfred Hope Patten had a copy of the ancient image as depicted on the Great Seal of the Priory carved and set up in the Parish Church of St Mary. Pilgrims began to come once more.

In 1931 the Holy House was rebuilt and the Holy Well uncovered and in 1937 the present Pilgrimage Church was completed.

Over the years the shrine has continued to expand. All the buildings are set round a beautiful garden. There is a chapel also built near the Shrine Church. In the garden is a stone altar and Stations of the Cross situated round the garden. There is accommodation for over 200 pilgrims, some of it is quite new and modern including a unit, St Josephs, for those who have disabilities. A new unit, called the Milner Wing, is presently being built. This will provide a new entrance where there will be a welcome area where pilgrims will be able to learn about Walsingham's past. It will also provide more ground floor, single and en suite rooms as well as purpose built accommodation with facilities for carers, and a suite of rooms for families with young children.

On the 17th September eleven Cowley pilgrims left Cowley by coach for the long journey to Walsingham at midday. Our own coach driver, Jim, had already been to Midsommer Norton and Bristol to pick up 22 pilgrims and Fr Christopher, who leads our pilgrimage. We arrived at Walsingham at around 4.00 pm, the last few miles along the narrow roads of rural Norfolk.



After settling in our rooms, having a cup of tea and supper we go to the Shrine Church for our first visit and service. After that we tumble into bed.

Each day there are three services we can attend if we choose – morning prayer at 8.30 am, Mass at 11.00 am and an evening service at 8.15 pm. Each of the evening services is different, a service of thanksgiving and intercession, the sprinkling from the Holy Well followed by laying of hands and the anointing and procession of the Host. This takes place round the garden, each one holding a candle and singing the pilgrim hymns.

During the afternoons we visit various places in Norfolk – we went to see the sea at Hunstanton, Holkham Hall and to Thurnsford to listen to the organ recital and visit the gift shops. The village of Walsingham itself has some interesting shops as well as an old courthouse in the museum. The meals in a modern refectory are excellent with several choices.

This year we had three new pilgrims and one, Sheila Manion, made the following comments: 'The time I spent at Walsingham was wonderful, it was so calm and peaceful. The services were all deeply moving and I always felt spiritually nourished and refreshed. The Holy House was my favourite place, one felt you could open your heart and mind and find comfort.' She praised our helpful and friendly coach driver, Jim and also the catering staff at the Shrine. She also said she shared some good times with other pilgrims, especially the friends from St Francis and St James, that it was like a big happy family.

I am sure all the pilgrims from Cowley share the same experiences that Sheila has written about. Sheila was with her mother, Maggie Giles.

On the Saturday before Mothering Sunday 2008 the pilgrims from Midsomer Norton will be coming to Oxford on an outing and will come to Cowley in the afternoon for a service together with us and a meal in the Church Centre. More details about this will follow in the New Year.

Next year's pilgrimage has been booked for September 22-26th.

Gwen Ranklin

Our wonderful hymns

You notice that I don't say English hymns because although they are printed in the English language in our books, many come from all corners of the globe. For example, what many regard as the quintessential English harvest hymn, We Plough the Fields and Scatter was actually translated from the German and dates from a very early period. Of course many were written by English people, and we have a very rich heritage of talented English writers.

Our Methodist friends are just now celebrating 300 years of their movement, and we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Charles Wesley, a prolific writer, who gave us some of our finest hymns. However, it is when a good hymn is accompanied by a great tune that it becomes really special, and a real treasure, and a joy to sing. Hence the enduring popularity of the BBC's Songs of Praise. We are lifted up by the music and then the words become more meaningful. We are indebted to the Welsh not only for some wonderful words but also superb music. For example, William Williams' Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah, a hymn that never fails to move us and inspire. The sources of our hymns come from many aspects and shades of religious life. From the Evangelicals and Non-Conformists,

from High Church Tractarians, the Oxford Movement, from the missions, from the Victorians and from devoted and committed Christians from all walks of life. Many of them didn't have easy lives and endured many years of hardship and ill health; facts which come out in moving words and expressions of their utter reliance on Christ to see them through their difficulties. It is precisely because of this that we can readily identify with them, and find them helpful in our own lives.

For many years the established church only sang what was known as metrical psalms, and rather frowned on the hymns as only for Non-Conformists and Evangelicals. However, they began to realise that hymns were a great way of bringing home spiritual and Biblical truths to ordinary people. And so they became mainstream and part of the regular pattern of our worship in church, and we have never looked back. Many of our best loved hymns are over 200 years old – some even older. It is impossible to do justice to the subject in a short article such as this. And so I would encourage you to get hold of a book about hymns and their writers, and the musicians who gave us the melodies. There are some fascinating stories behind them, and it is well worth the effort.

John Shreeve

Rosanne Interviews Lesley Williams

I have heard it said that if you can count the number of best friends you have on the fingers of each hand you are a lucky person. But I'm not sure luck has much to do with it. I think, like Lesley, that friendships need to be cultivated and, my goodness, she is a pass-master at doing just that. She stays in touch with a couple of close friends from early school days and a group of Old Girls from Enfield County School meet annually for a girlie reunion. She also has friends throughout Britain and the world from her earlier career and travels. But let's go back to the beginning.

Lesley was born in Middlesex, the third child in a family of four. With two older brothers to lead her on she was rather a tomboy. Closest to her youngest brother, Graham, she remembers that even as very small children they spent many happy hours playing on a lovely wild piece of land which separated the family garden from the nearby railway lines. Camps, cowboys, jungle adventures were all acted out there with a group of friends who, with them, attended Grange Park Junior School.

At her first school, Merryhill Infants, Lesley recalls that she was a thumb-sucker. In order to cure her she was presented with a red biro pen and she was so proud when her teacher used it to mark the register! A bright child, she took to school and all it had to offer like a duck to water. At junior school she found herself enjoying her ability

to write well and, although not quite so keen, managed maths comfortably. Sewing was good fun mainly because they made 'real' things such as aprons. Her weekly visits to have tea with her grandmother also delighted her because of the practical things Nanna taught her. However her favourite lessons were on the sports field and netball court. She played in the junior school netball team, thus beginning a love affair with that sport which abides to this day. Many other activities provide Lesley with happy memories – leader of her house, country dancing, taking part in a choral speaking group (and winning the cup) at Enfield Music Festival and residential weeks at Pendle Manor with her classmates.

After passing her 11+ exam she went on to Enfield County School where, she told me, she was a bit of a goodie-goodie. Excellent teaching in the arts and languages encouraged her to shine and it was on the sports field too that she continued to do well. She represented the school in all the team games, playing away fixtures all over Greater London. 'O' and 'A' levels were taken in her stride and with the necessary passes in English, geography and religious education, she became a student at teacher training college in Bristol. Her main study subject was divinity and she trained to teach in primary schools. Again sport featured strongly in her life, even rugby which she played 'for a laugh'. She also took up badminton and table tennis.

Lesley's teaching career began in Bristol but after a while she decided to take time out to visit one of her brothers who had married and was living in Boston, USA. Once there she took Greyhound bus journeys all over Canada and the United States. In order to buy her ticket home she worked as a waitress for some time.

Once back in the UK she applied for a teaching post at Overmede Primary School in Blackbird Leys where Ruby Archer was deputy headteacher. After a while she decided that she should return to college to gain her degree in education. On returning to Oxford she taught at Temple Cowley Middle School. Before long she was off on her world travels again, this time to Australia. She describes this period in her life as wonderful. She swapped jobs with a teacher in Adelaide and, met some lovely people and enjoyed a terrific social life. She joined friends on camping trips, drove a big station wagon and visited Sydney, Perth, Queensland and Tasmania. She also (of course!) played badminton and squash, the latter for the first time.

Her next post in England was a deputy head at John Hampden School in Thame and she helped (as acting headteacher) with the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the school. From there she was appointed head teacher at Chalgrove village school where she stayed until the end of her teaching career. After thirteen years the demands and pressures of the position persuaded her to leave, especially as Oxfordshire Education Authority had an exciting new post waiting for her. She is still working in this particular job, although year on year it has developed into a wider responsibility. So what does she do? She is

called a FELDO (Family and Extended Learning Development Officer) and is now Extended Schools Co ordinator for the Headington area. This has a huge remit and briefly means working towards the government's proposal to provide 8.00 am to 6.00 pm childcare for all 5 to 11-year-olds all the year round by 2010. A great deal of this involves parenting skills, family learning and setting up community use of school buildings and grounds to be used more widely than at present.

And when she's not working? Well, she plays badminton, netball and squash. She is a qualified netball coach and umpire and is president of the Abbey Netball Club in Headington. She is also a great correspondent and, as I mentioned at the beginning, she writes regularly to well over a hundred friends and family around the world. She is also a devoted aunt, great-aunt and godmother, very thrilled at the arrival of a brand new great-nephew. She is involved in four local committees, chair of governors at Cowley St James School, a member of our PCC and editor of our weekly Links. No wonder she told me she never sits down (except to write letters or minutes or to attend meetings I guess!).

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

A tomboy. When we were playing 'Monopoly' as a family, if I were losing I'd tip-end the board. The teasing I got from my brothers upset me but it probably made me more independent.

Have you any childhood memories you'd like to share?

Holidays. We were a very close family. We would rent a caravan, usually on a farm. The boys were allowed to drive the tractor.

When I was about seven I was plonked on top of a huge cart-horse who knew his way backwards and forwards from the field to the farm.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

Yes, absolutely – Sunda School, Junior Church and I was trained to teach in an Anglican church College so God was always there. I was confirmed, thanks for Fr Ross, as an adult in 1980. I'm still an URC (United Reform Church) when I'm with the family. I had cousins who were missionaries in China.

If you could make a major change in the world what would it be?

Re-establish the importance of family life.

Is there anything in modern life which you find positive?

Flexibility to have time to travel or just go to the theatre or concerts as I please (which I do quite a bit)

Do you have a treasured possession?

I do keep lots of childhood momentos.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I very rarely sit down and relax. I don't have a telly so I don't watch that. I go to the theatre and I enjoy modern or classical dance. I like concerts – choral works, jazz, the odd symphony.

Are there any places in the world you would like to visit?

New Zealand. I've got friends scattered all around there. And I want to spend more quality time in Australia.

Do you have ambitions for the future?

I might retire one day, might move into a bigger house and have my dicey hip done.

Rosanne Butler

Money to share with you

The church wardens, treasurer, hall manager and I have been having some interesting discussions lately about developing a budget for the parish. I thought you should know why we are trying to prepare a budget and how it's going.

Recently son wanted me to take him to Thorpe Park. It is probably the most sophisticated amusement park in the UK. He particularly wanted to take me on *Nemesis*, a hanging rollercoaster. It looked scary. There were several loop-the-loops and corkscrews in which we went upside down and also a 100 foot drop. As I said, it looked terrifying, but after we experienced *Nemesis* I can honestly say it was great fun and I would happily ride it again. A lot of people look at money and budgeting like I looked at *Nemesis* – a very scary ride. But hang on a budget is a good thing that can bring happiness.

The need for a budget is obvious. We budget so that we can use the parish's money in the best ways possible. I'm sure you know from experience that if you don't take care of your personal finances, understand how much money you have, how you want to use your money, and how you will pay the bills, your money will soon get out of control. Witness

the news stories that tell of rocketing personal debt and a corresponding rise in bankruptcies. Budgeting allows us to be in control of our money, make decisions that fit what we believe and who we are, keeps us from falling into debt, provides a realistic picture of how we are progressing (or failing to progress) financially, and brings a sense of peace because we begin to understand how we can meet our responsibilities in the community. If that is true for each of us personally, it is even more so for us as a parish.



As a finance committee we've been thinking about how best to make to careful and responsible use the parish's financial resources. In one way or another I think each of us were a bit surprised by what we learned and so here are some of the things I want to share with you.

How much do you think it costs to run the parish for a week? Every week, summer, winter, spring and autumn it costs £1,155.40 to keep us going! How can that be? Where does the money go? I can't go into great detail here (that's what the budget is for) but it costs about £19 pounds per day for heat, light, insurance, water and maintenance at St James; and it costs £17 pounds every day for those same things to keep St Francis up and running. The largest portion of money goes to parish costs which includes music, service expenses and our Parish Share. The total for that is £129 per day. The Parish Share is the money we pay each year to the diocese. The Parish Share is our biggest expense but we get very good value for it, in fact the diocese returns more money to us than we give in terms of salaries and other benefits we receive.

We have been looking at the cost of everything in pounds, but there is something else we are looking at; the incredible value we get for our money. If we were to pay someone to put our newspaper or weekly bulletin together it would cost hundreds of pounds per month. The same is true of many of the events we have at St Francis and St James. Our actual cost in terms of the pounds we spend are very low because so many church members are involved in doing the jobs of the parish.

We will be discussing the proposed budget for 2008 at the next Parochial Church Committee meeting (22 November) and I will have more information for you in the Chronicle and the Link. If you have any questions or suggestions please ask questions of ministry team members: Howard Thornton, Beth Spence, Michael Spence; the Church Wardens: Jeremy Herklots and Norah Shallow; the Treasurer Joan Coleman, or the Hall Manager, Gwen Ranklin.

Howard Thornton

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (exc 2nd Sunday)
	All Age Eucharist (2nd Sunday)

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am	Parish Eucharist [Family Eucharist – 2nd Sunday of the month]
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Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	10.00 am	Toddler Group – St Francis
	2.30 pm	Parish Mothers' Union – St James (3 rd Mon)
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	10.00 am	Seashells resumes 11 Sept – Church Centre
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – St Francis
	12.00 pm	Eucharist – St James
	12.30 pm	Tuesday Lunch Club – St James
	2.30 pm	Friends of St Francis – St Francis (2 nd & 4 th)
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	2.30 pm	Tea Break – St Francis (1st Wed)
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	11.00 am	St Francis Prayer Group
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
	7.00 pm	Eucharist – St Francis
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Saturday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast – St Francis

Day Off

Michael can be contacted in the evenings and at weekends. Beth can be contacted during the day as well.

Parish Directory

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The next issue of the *Chronicle* will be available on Sunday 9th December. Please send in your articles, stories, comments and news by 2nd December.