

# What are you doing here anyway?

What is the purpose of the Parish of Cowley? For the past year, members of the PCC and the Church Committees of St James and St Francis have been thinking, praying and working together to discern God's vision for the future of the Parish of Cowley. Why do we exist? What is our purpose? What has God called us to do?

How does one hear God's voice? As a person or a parish, how does anyone know what God is calling them to? First, we studied what the Bible says. We thought about what God, throughout history, has called the church to do. We looked at some of the ways God has used the people of the Parish of Cowley over its 800 years. We thought about our parish during the past 40 years. I had interesting conversations with people in the parish who have seen it through the best of times and the worst of times. For instance, from her archives, Thelma Telling showed me the work that a parish team of seven men and women were able to accomplish. From the PCC minutes, Maureen Chatterton provided me with insightful discussions of decisions that have shaped the parish. Norah Shallow has made a significant contribution. The late Gwen Ranklin shared many historical anecdotes and insight into the workings of the parish. It has been fascinating.

We've prayed together. We thought. We discussed. We played games. We drew pictures to describe what our church is like, what we are doing, and how we relate to

our community.

We've had a lot of fun working together. During each meeting we've recorded things that were said, how our discussions moved forward, and the insights we received from God. Why are we here? What has God called us to do? What is our purpose as the Parish of Cowley? I have a deep conviction that the future of our parish depends on the answers to these questions.

We believe that God's purpose for us in Cowley is to develop and creatively engage in **Worship** of God. The bible tells us that we are created to live in a deep relationship with God. We worship not out of obligation but out of a profound sense of awe and wonder. We are to love God and one another as a community of believers who support, encourage and love one another in **Fellowship**. As we meet in fellowship we are to grow in our understanding of God and to grow into His likeness throughout our lives in **Discipleship**. A disciple is a student. As students of our Lord, inspired by the love of God, encouraged and loved by others in our church, we go out into the world and seek ways to enact the love of God through **Ministry**. As we minister to the needs of our neighbours, we find ways to share the Good News of God's love through **Evangelism**.

The answers to our quest to discover God's purpose has led to some new

# Chronicle

Continued on page 3

August &  
Sept. 2009

# *Letter from the Editors*

Dear Readers,

This double Summer issue of the Chronicle marks the first anniversary of Carol's and my editorship of our parish magazine. From the comments you have made it would seem that you are largely satisfied with our efforts.

We know we are not perfect and from time to time things go wrong, so if there is any aspect of the magazine you are not happy about, please tell us. Conversely if there are articles you enjoy, we would like to know.

One thing we would like to include is a larger participation from St Francis on the interview pages. Come on St Francis folks, from your congregation who would you like to see featured?

We expect our regular readers will realise that August is subscription time for the Chronicle, from September 2009 to July 2010. To cover our escalating costs we are asking £3.00 per year for an annual subscrip-

tion of 10 issues. Stella Atkins will collect the subscriptions at St Francis and May Morgan at St James. They will ensure that your own named copy will be available to you each month. No more searching around for a Chronicle only to be told that they have all gone! We shall only print a few spare copies each month for visitors or people new to the parish. Please tell our house-bound parishioners about the new arrangements, and if possible take them their copies as you receive yours.

Finally, may we (politely of course!) urge you to carefully read the news items. We have sometimes been told, "That was not published properly" when we know "that" was featured in the Chronicle sometimes for two or three months previously.

There are lots of good things coming up in the next few months – don't miss them.

God Bless.

– Rosanne and Carol

## *Chronicle* **details and deadlines**

The Chronicle is the monthly magazine of the Parish of Cowley Team Ministry. It is published ten times a year, with no publication in January or August. Issues going back as far as January, 2000 can be found online at this address: [www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/chronicle/](http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/chronicle/)

The Chronicle is edited by Rosanne Butler (01865 ) and Carol Thornton.

Material from St Francis church members is collected by John Shreeve. Email: [chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

Or you can ring the parish office on (01865) 747 680. We encourage contributions from everyone at St Francis and St James churches. To have an item included in the September issue, please submit it by 23 August.

# Eva Tustin: A Tribute

Eva Tustin died on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

I first knew Eva when she moved to Glebelands about 30 years ago. She was a very active lady. Holidays and walks with the rambling club were part of her life. A very kind and generous lady, she shared her gifts. She was interested in the work of the CMS, and with her love of wildlife she supported BBOWT. At home she loved her books and her crossword puzzles, and watching and feeding the birds in her garden.

Eva worshipped regularly at Dorchester Abbey. Later, when she gave up her car she transferred to St Francis and still giving, she served on the Church committee and the PCC.

Eva was a lovely friend and neighbour to us in Glebelands and we miss her.

May she rest in peace.

---

**Continued from page one** questions. How are we to accomplish God's purposes? Where do we begin? From the musical, "The Sound of Music," Maria's advice is to "Start at the very beginning, a very good place to start." Everything begins with worship. It is our first responsibility toward God. You and I are called to worship God.

Worship is not only what happens on a Sunday morning. It isn't just the hymns we sing. It isn't confined to the Eucharist or baptism or lighting candles. Westminster Shorter Catechism's first question asks, "What is the primary purpose of human beings? The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever."

We worship by enjoying fellowship with God. In our lives, joy is to be a hallmark. As a result of being in the presence of God and enjoying him, we have joy that comes from deep within. Every civilization worships something, whether it is a stone idol, a bronze statue of the Buddha or the sleek Apple i-phone of the consumer culture. We have been hardwired for worship. It is as inevitable as breath. As a church, and individually as God's people, we need continually to discover ways to connect our natural

need to worship, and God's desire for us to learn to worship him.

When Carol and I were first dating, I thought about her all the time. I am not a poet but I tried to write poems to express the love I felt for her. I talked about her to anyone who would listen, but also to myself. When I sang along with a love song on the radio, I thought about Carol. At the time we lived 400 miles apart. But all that thinking and loving and talking helped me feel close to her.

Jesus said, "Abide in me as I abide in you." (Jn 15:4) To abide in Jesus is to allow the love of God to be a part of who we are, and a way to grow closer to God each day. That's at the heart of worship, whether we worship God as we do the washing-up, or worship God in church on Sunday morning. As a church, let's look for ways to worship God that allow us to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Over the coming months we'll talk and think about our other purposes; fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism.

Howard

## Calling All Would-Be Holiday Makers

Barbara and Brian Brown are organising one of their popular seaside holidays for October. This autumn's holiday-makers will visit Boscombe from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October (3 nights).

Places are still available as follows: 3 double/twin rooms at a cost of £185 per person. Anyone interested in joining Barbara, Brian and friends, please ring Barbara on 04125 280 156 or contact Chris Woodman. The plan is to visit Osborne House on the Isle of Wight and Beaulieu Abbey and the National Motor Museum on the Wednesday and Thursday.



## One moment, one question, one aim: Back to Church Sunday

On 27 September, half a million people will have invited someone special back to church with them. The Church's 44 dioceses are all taking part in the initiative this year, by encouraging churchgoers to invite someone who used to attend church to come back on a particular Sunday.

September is an ideal time to invite someone to come to church with you for Back to Church Sunday. We'll hold our normal services at St Francis and St James Churches, but we'll focus on extending an even warmer welcome than usual, supported by 'Back to Church Sunday' resources. In the weeks leading up to this event, we'll provide you

with invitations to give to your friends.

There are many reasons why people stop going to church, and many of them say they would come back, but that they've never been invited. This is our chance to let them know that we miss them and that we'd welcome them at St Francis or St James. I want to encourage you to get involved in our Back to Church Sunday. Invite a friend. Make some suggestions about what you would like to do to make it a special Sunday. Please contact Susannah Reide or Howard Thornton.



## Christian Aid

This year's Christian Aid Week campaign saw a rather disappointing result. Last year the parish managed to raise over £600. However, our total for 2009 was just over £420. Hopefully next year our participation in the campaign will be planned further in advance, and more people will get involved.

Remember, we don't have to rely solely on the envelope distribution and collection. Many churches do all kinds of fund-raising. In one church I visited, a lady had cut and dried bay leaves from her garden and packaged them in a very pretty way to sell for Christian Aid. So in order to support such a wonderful organisation, what can we do?

## A Whopping Success!

When I suggested a plant sale for church funds, I never expected such a wave of enthusiastic people to rally round and make it such a success!

I was showered with empty pots, cleared out Una's shed of garden tools and, on the day, was overwhelmed by the numbers of plants you wonderful people brought for sale to add to the ones that had filled my greenhouse and garden over the last few weeks. Not only that, but we had added attractions of bric-a-brac and nearly-new clothing, books, lovely cakes, a fantastic array of jams and preserves and, of course, refreshments!

We made a wonderful £712.90 (though we still have refreshment expenses to pay.) May I suggest a re-run next year???

Thank you all.  
**Joan Coleman**

## Formerly in the Parish

### Ordination of David Longe

Many of you will remember David Longe, who did a student placement here in the parish. David was ordained Deacon by the Right Rev Dr Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark, at Southwark Cathedral, London, on 28<sup>th</sup> June. He will serve as curate in North Lambeth Parish, as part of a team ministry in a diverse parish across the river from the House of Commons. David wrote, "Thank you so much for the most wonderful time at St James. It was highly formative and all were so generous to Sara and myself." Perhaps we can keep them in our prayers as they work and minister in a new place.

### The Spence Family

... Although we have been here for almost a year, we have just settled into our permanent home. [The address is available from the parish office.]

The children have all settled into school and are playing lots of sport and music. Beth and Michael are helping out during an interregnum at a local church and Michael is enjoying his new job. Our new home is just 10 minutes from the city and 10 minutes from the beach. Sydney is terrific, but we miss Oxford, and especially our friends, very much. Please do come and visit soon!

– Michael, Beth, James,  
Philippa, Ollie, Lucy and Felicity

## Concert

Along with a number of music students from her school, Katie Thornton will sing in a concert in the chapel, The School of St Helen and St Katharine, Faringdon Road, Abingdon, at 7 pm, **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July**. The concert is expected to last about an hour, and there is no charge for attending.

# Help for Children in Distress

Children in Distress is a charity that cares for Europe's forgotten children. It is a small charity that is doing a big job. Through its programmes and partners, Children in Distress (CID) cares directly for over 2,600 terminally and incurably ill infants, children and young people. But that's not all. Through education, training, social care and outreach, CID works to change the lives of a further 8,000 children and their families. Through its advocacy work the

charity helps those who live with Autism and similar disorders. But that's still not all. CID also speaks out and demonstrates support for a further 25,000 children and young adults, offering them today the chance of a better tomorrow. That's a lot of children being helped!



The mission of Children in Distress is to offer love and care to children living with HIV AIDS or incurable and terminal illness. Simply stated the aim is to cure sometimes; to help often; to comfort, always.

It's not just about money. Although financial help is very necessary there are other ways to support the work of Children in Distress. For example Thelma Telling and Mollie Oliver from St Francis Church have been knitting jumpers and other clothing for children who are in distress. Keeping warm enough is essential, so the sweaters and hats, socks and scarves are a practical reminder to children that someone cared enough to give of their time to make the warm clothing.

CID welcomes knitted clothing. It allows knitters to indulge in their hobby and to help others at the same time, which adds greatly to the enjoyment of being a part of the knitting project. Non-knitting friends can supply encouragement and the yarn for knitting. If you're interested in knitting for CID, contact Thelma Telling. Items that are welcomed include jumpers and cardigans, hats, mittens, scarves and knee rugs for the wheelchair bound, for children aged between three and eight years of age.

## *From the Parish Registers*

### **Baptisms**

10 May : Isla Miller; Jacob Benjamin George Willis; Leo Cole  
31 May : Carla Jane Sheila Mohun;  
14 June : Kiera Brandon

### **Funerals**

22 May : George Clayton McFernos  
Shallow  
29 May : Phyllis Cozens

### **Weddings**

23 May : Charity Makobe and Arkadiusz Stankiewicz, St Francis Church

30 May : Charles Nurombedzi and Charlotte Horwood, St James Church

# Rosanne Interviews

## Pat Chambers

The chances are that if you have ever been to a function, be it a parish lunch, a coffee morning, a welcoming or farewell party, a confirmation reception or any event at St James Church Centre, then you have probably been served by Pat. She is one of those marvellous people who help keep our parish hospitality ticking over so successfully. The operative word there is *help* because she told me she has no desire to be in the limelight in any way; she is always ready to offer her help.

It seems timely that she is my interviewee this month because it was Alpha that brought Pat and her late and much-missed husband Terry into St James. It is poignant indeed that Terry found the love of God in the last years of his life whilst coping with cancer, and it was through the kindness of neighbours and the support of our former curate, Vernon Orr, that Pat and Terry reaffirmed their faith.

Now that Pat is on her own she has found real friendship through the church. I am, however, telling her story out of sequence so let us go back to a month before the beginning of the Second

World War when a baby girl was born in a little house just off Walton Street in Oxford.

Her father sounds quite a character. He worked in Lucy's Iron foundry having in his youth been a bellboy at the old Clarendon in Cornmarket. He was a pigeon fancier and raced his birds. As a toddler Pat loved to help her dad with his pigeons. He was a man who expected to be respected and obeyed but she remembers climbing up and under his open newspaper to snuggle on his lap for a cuddle. She recalls that it was through him that she gained her love of cricket.

Mum had to be minded too. From a very early age Pat was expected to run errands and do her share at home. In church her mother would insist that all three of her children (Pat's older brother and younger sister too) must sit absolutely still and face the front with no chattering right through the service. She still has an upright posture thanks to her mums training. She also learnt her work from her mother who would, after taking her to school at St Philip and St James infant school, walk to Park Town

to clean at one of the large houses. She would then hurry home to cook a midday meal for the family. Pat enjoyed school, first at "Phil and Jim" and later at St Denys junior school, though she told me, that as she grew up she became a chatterbox. She could often be found outside the classroom door for being naughty. She liked being part of school, belonging, and hated ever having to be absent.

During the war she and her big brother helped their dad with his garden and the family chickens. However one thing she is very proud of is that their pigeons became carriers. They brought coded messages across the Channel with tiny spools taped to their legs. Often Pat's mum would be at home to retrieve these and she would be sent off on her bike to hand over the messages to the manager of Sainsbury's on Carfax. He would then pass them on to the appropriate authorities. Pat was part of an undercover spy ring. Of course the war did not really affect Oxford much but she remembers the railings outside homes being taken for scrap metal.

She also told me how the

Morrison shelter in their small sitting room took up so much room that the sofa had to be stored on top of it for the duration of the war. She and her friends used to play schools in the shelter chalking sums and writing on the ceiling. The main thing that influenced her young life though was handing up the family ration books to the counter assistants in Sainsbury's when she went shopping with her mum.

She fell in love with the whole shop, the bacon being sliced on the big machine, the cheese cut into chunks with a wire cutter, the big scales to weigh dry goods but most of all the beautiful tiled murals decorating the walls.

She made up her mind that she would work there when she left school and so she did. She began as a clerk sitting in the glass fronted office in the corner of the shop. She was the proudest 15-year-old you can imagine. And it was at Sainsbury's that she met her dear Terry. After an extended National Service (an extension would earn more money) Terry decided to train as a master butcher. He left his Grimsbury home to train in London. Since there was an opening at the Oxford branch of Sainsbury's for a new qualified butcher he took the job and so met Pat. Not that it was love at first sight but they were soon

learning ballroom dancing at Bretts Academy and so their romance began.

An offer to manage a small butcher's shop in Littlemore with a flat above gave them a reason to approach Pat's dad for permission to marry. It had always been understood that she would not be married before her 21st birthday but as they were so much in love it was agreed that 19-year-old Pat could go ahead. They married at the Parish Church of St Michael at the North Gate in September 1953. They moved into the flat and Pat worked in the grocery shop next door.

Soon their first baby was on the way but Pat continued to work right up until her daughter, Kay, was born. So they managed to save enough for a deposit on their home in Cleveland Drive. Three years later she gave birth to their son, Richard. Once the children were happily settled at school Pat found a job at the Nuffield Maternity Unit which fitted in nicely with school hours. She realised that though she had no nursing training she had found her niche. From there she moved to the Churchill Hospital's premature baby unit (where incidentally she worked alongside the expertise of Gwen Ranklin). She simply loved it.

After this she returned to

office work at Sainsbury's in Cowley Centre and finally ended her working life by spending fifteen happy years as a traffic warden. How's that for a wide ranging career?

She now declares herself "St James' through and through" by which I guess she means that she loves our Parish Church, the Church Centre and all the friendships she has made here. What do you think?

### **How would you describe yourself as a small child?**

Full of mischief, always wanting to run errands for mum and other people, always wanting to be outdoors. (We could play in the street in those days)

### **Do you have a never-to-be-forgotten memory of your childhood?**

Yes; those lovely shopping trips to Sainsbury's and handing over the ration books.

### **Has God always been a part of your life?**

Yes, as a child in church and Sunday School. He was on the periphery when the family was growing up but I always believed. He was a great comfort when Terry was so ill.

### **What do you think of modern society?**

There is a lack of respect in everyday life especially among the young. I think I was born too soon because I



remember how things used to be and how they ought to be now.

**What disappoints you about life today?**

Litter and junk in peoples front gardens. They just don't seem to care.

**How do you like to spend your spare time?**

Gardening, light reading (anything I can get hold of.) I play darts for the ladies team at the Catherine Wheel at Sandford. I do like walking - sometimes I borrow my neighbour's dog to take for a walk.

**Which period of your adult life has been special?**

Perhaps it sounds strange but I was very close to Terry but we had a lot of fun together during his final illness.

**What plans do you have for the future?**

I pray that God will keep me fit and well enough to do the things he wants me to do.

# Pilgrimage to St Albans

On the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010 you've just got to come! Where? To St Albans in Hertfordshire for the annual pilgrimage made by thousands of pilgrims every year. Why? Because it is inspirational on many levels, and those of us who joined the group from St Albans Church in East Oxford are convinced that pilgrims from Cowley would find it most uplifting. How? By coach, which we hope to fill next year.

So let me explain what happens. The day begins with an enactment of the arrest of St Alban, our first English martyr, at the Roman amphitheatre outside the city. There is no compulsion to walk out to see this. However, what happens there is great and sets the scene for the day.

A band of trumpeters and drummers leads a long procession of huge puppets that depict Roman soldiers, Alban, angels, and charioteers, interspersed with the most enchanting group of banner bearers, flag carriers, miniature Roman soldiers and monks (recruited from most of the children of the city!) followed by at least two dozen clergy, the bishop, the mayor, and a goodly section of his corporation. They all process to a grassy arena just below the abbey church where Alban's execution is re-enacted. No, it is not gory, it is delightfully but reverently done.

The procession pours into the vast abbey for a beautiful sung festival Eucharist. This year

there were easily 2000 people in the congregation, led by a choir of at least fifty. The singing was glorious, but how so many pilgrims managed to receive communion in an acceptable time span I'll leave you to see for yourself next year. The sermon was inspirational.

After the service it was time for a picnic on the abbey lawns (bring your own or buy one there) or pop into town for lunch and shopping. The activities for children were brilliant: a bouncy castle, a clown who made balloon sculptures, a drumming workshop and much more.

At the 4 pm choral evensong in the abbey, the singing was nothing short of sensational. The pilgrimage was rounded off with a procession to Alban's shrine where many people lay red roses.

I have left out some of the other moving and exciting details of the day but I hope I've given you something to think about, and maybe you'd like to experience them too. Bu the way, very little walking is involved unless you go into town. The furthest distance to walk was from the abbey to the coach park, and that was all downhill.

The whole pilgrimage is a truly spiritual experience, and our small group was very grateful to the parishioners of SS Mary and John and St Albans churches for sharing their coach with us this year.

# Standing/Sitting, Sowing, and Snail-racing

How does your garden grow? The weeds are quite healthy I expect, and the grass will be growing fast, but how satisfied are you by the general look of your garden? There are lots of eyesores on my patch, and lots of tidying to do, but the general impression of an organised jungle/cottage garden/herbaceous border is pleasing me in places. I hope that your patch is giving you pleasure also. Now don't forget to stand, or sit, and admire it and drink it in. The beauty of today is gone tomorrow, but tomorrow will have its own beauty.

There is still time to sow seeds in early July. It is often worth trying a little row just in case! Seeds that I may try include carrots, turnip and beetroot, but it certainly is worth sowing a few more runner beans and dwarf

beans and some fresh parsley. Water the drill before sowing for all these above; then pull drier soil over them to try to keep the moisture in. It is not just vegetable seeds but flowers that can still be sown. Nasturtiums are good for late summer, and wallflowers, sweet William, pansies and double daisies (bellis) can be sown now for spring. Now could also be a good time to sow coleus and schizanthus to brighten you windowsills in the coming winter.

As the year moves on into Autumn (and here we are looking forward to summer!) it will be advantageous to sow some annual seeds ready for the early summer next year, but leave them till August and September.

Now for some fun!!!! Snails are the bane of many of us,

but use them to entertain and fascinate the family. Mark a few snails and see which one reaches the edge of a small arena first (betting not encouraged.) Spend some time outdoors at night with a torch and map where they travel to at night. Do they have large territories?

This last suggestion is one which I certainly will try with the grandchildren. Paint the window with sugar water and place snails on it. Watch the undersides of the snail. On the TV it was really interesting to see the waves of muscle movements as the snails crawled. The best bit was to see them start to feed! Their mouths look very alien. The final part of this game is to get the viewers to clean the windows. Hum, some hope!

**Diana Pope**

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Do you know anyone who is house-bound or disabled, who would love to have a buggy on which to get about? They are very expensive machines and often that is the problem. The Chronicle has been told of a Shop-mobility Scooter bought in error for nearly £2000 and whose owner is anxious to find it a good home. She is only asking £300 which is a real bargain. The lady has kindly said that if you ring after midday any day she will be pleased to let you see it, and test it out, if you are interested. Her phone number is 01865 200548. Wouldn't it be lovely if this small article could change someone's life for the better?

# OUT and ABOUT

## Midsummer Tea in the Church Centre

A midsummer afternoon tea to raise funds for Macmillan Nurses is planned for **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July** from 2:30 to 4:30. You can enjoy strawberries and cream, and home-made scones will be served with cream and our editor Carol's gorgeous home-made jam. There will be

all sorts of delights including a bumper raffle.

Tickets at £3.50 will be on sale from **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**.

What a yummy way to support a magnificent cause.



## Art in the community

The ArkT Centre at John Bunyan Church on Crowell Road will host an open painting session on **Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> July** from 10 am until 1 pm. It will be a chance for people to express themselves by making a painting for Templars Square. All ages are welcome, and all materials will be provided.

## Please join us for a Thanksgiving Service

on the First Anniversary of the  
Emergency Food Bank  
on 21st July at 5.15 pm  
at St Francis Church, Hollow Way  
followed by tea and cakes.



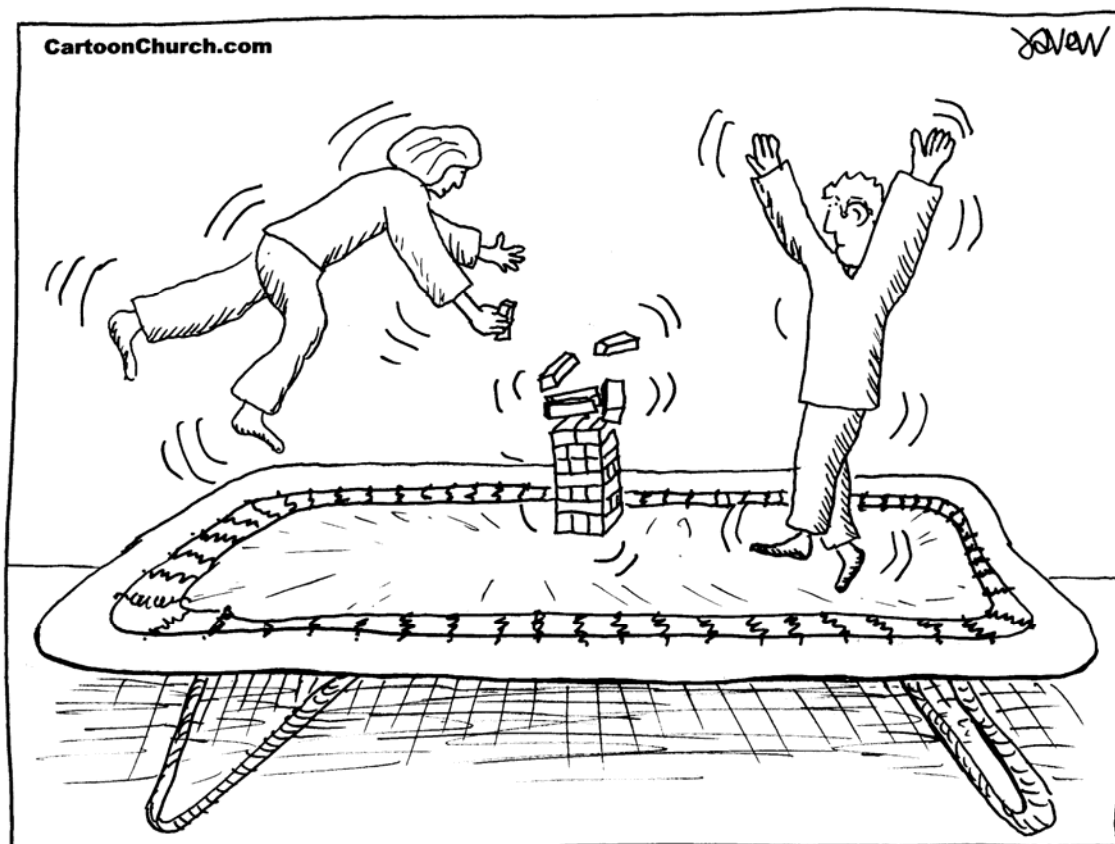
# Summer Sale

Clivia Philbin, who is a well-known person in our parish, has joined her husband Patrick in Townsend House care home. Consequently she has been clearing their home in order to sell it. Tucked away amongst their belongings were a huge number of items such as brand new linen, tea-towels, sheets, etc. There was also china (some never used), glassware, and much besides. She has asked that these goods are sold and the proceeds given to the parish. So we are holding a sale on **Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> August** at 10:30 am until 1 pm in St James Church Centre. Other bric-a-brac and clothing will also be on sale. Refreshments – coffee, tea, etc – will be available. Do come along to support this.

## A Wedding

Patrick Gilday and Lydia Potts would like to invite all their friends from St Francis and St James to join them for their wedding service at 1 o'clock on Saturday 8th August at St Francis. We'll be disappearing off for photographs pretty quickly after the service but please stay behind to enjoy some wedding cake!

Patrick and Lydia



Trampoline Jenga

# The Origins of Cowley

Many people have asked when another talk about “The Origins of Cowley” will be given by your editor, Rosanne Butler. So by popular request there will be a talk on **Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September** at 7 pm.

This time, to add a new dimension, the evening will include a series of excellent slides of many of the sites featured. Les Hemsworth, the photographer who took the photos for the parish calendar, has been out and about all summer snapping most of Cowley (and much of Oxford) to make the talk more interesting. This time the event will take place at St Francis Church. An admission charge of £2 at the door will go to aid parish funds.



# THE COWLEY PROMS

**Plans for The Cowley Proms are going ahead and tickets will be on sale from the 14<sup>th</sup> July, at £18 per person. As well as an evening of musical entertainment, included in the ticket price are a champagne buffet supper, a programme, and an interval treat. Tickets may be obtained by ringing 01865 453 257.**

**The Cowley Proms take place on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, beginning with supper in the St James Church Centre. The programme will continue in the church, with a very popular choir of young people, a string quartet, and, of course, The Jubilee Brass Band to lead the traditional singing. Don't miss this fun evening.**

# letters

I'd like to say a big "Thank you!!" to the person who brought several trays of little lettuce seedlings to the church centre one Sunday morning in the spring. I put in my donation and brought some home and planted them out, and we've been enjoying the lettuce for weeks now. It is wonderful!

Thank you so much.

**Carol Thornton**

## **Jam Results for Romanian Relief**

Since 1 April, through the sale of jams, preserves and marmalade at the Tuesday Lunch Club, £73 has been raised to be sent to Romanian Relief, for the children in the safe houses in Tinca. In addition, approximately £60 of my jams were sold at the Plant Sale, all the proceeds of which went to parish funds. So thank you to everyone who supports these projects with your morning toast! And thank you to everyone who has provided small jars.

If you have any surplus fruits this summer, I'd be happy to have them to use for jam in the coming weeks. I was given a small freezer several months ago by a kindly Freecycler, where I am able to store fruit until it can be made up.

**Carol Thornton**

## **What is Love?**

What love means to children between four and eight years of age:

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails any more. So my grandfather does it for her, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca – 8

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Bobby – 7

## **To the Editors of the Chronicle**

It was with something like dismay and growing anger that I read the June Chronicle. Having first mislaid an article obtained months ago from Children in Distress, you still do not include a new one written by Howard. He had phoned Glasgow, and promised that at last the information given him would be published. But no, it is not. What explanation can you give for this omission?

Furthermore, a copy of a letter and details of some of the Charities supported by collecting the tops of milk bottles has also been omitted, despite your assurances that it would be published.

I sincerely hope that both articles will receive prominence in the July edition.

Yours sincerely,

**Thelma Telling**

*The editor's reply:*

*We can understand your dismay at the loss of the excellent article about Children in Distress and we are very sorry about it. Due to a series of mishaps on our part plus a misunderstanding last month it has been sadly neglected. We sincerely apologise and hope that its appearance this month will make up for your disappointment. – Rosanne*

# Saint of the Month John Keble



Many of the saints I've written about here are figures of legend, because little is known about their actual lives. But this month I decided to focus on John Keble. Keble was born on 25 April 1792 in Fairford, Gloucestershire, whose church, St Mary's, is one of a very few churches that retain their medieval stained glass. His father, vicar of Coln St Andrews, decided not to send his sons to school. Instead, he taught them – so well that they both won scholarships to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, John at only 14 years old. He was a brilliant scholar gaining a double first in Classics and Mathematics. He was elected a Fellow of Oriel College, and became a tutor and later an examiner. On Trinity Sunday, 1815, he was ordained

Deacon, and made a priest a year later.

Around the time of his ordination, he wrote to a friend, “Pray for me earnestly, my dear, my best friend, that he would give me his grace, that I may not be altogether unworthy of the sacred office on which I am, rashly I fear, even now entering; but that some souls hereafter may have cause to bless me. Pray that I may be free from vanity, from envy, from discontent, from impure imaginations; that I may not grow weary, nor wander in heart from God's service; that I may not be judging others uncharitably, nor vainly dreaming how they will judge me, at the very moment that I seem most religiously and most charitably employed.”

Keble conceived the idea of a book of poems that would illustrate the church year, helping people understand the Prayer Book services, and helping them relate to God in personal meditation. Like Wordsworth, he was interested in the relationship of the human soul with the natural world. But he hesitated in putting himself forward, and when the book was published in two small volumes in 1827, it was anonymous. “The Christian Year” was immediately successful, and its influence lasting. During his lifetime 95 editions were published. Some of the poems are still popular as hymns.

In 1831 Keble was elected Professor of Poetry at Oxford, a post he held for ten years.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, 1833, he preached his famous Assize sermon, to call people to the dangers facing the Church from the state and from society's “disorder and irreligion.” He called for people to be circumspect in behaviour, watchful of themselves, and earnest in prayer. “...if he be consistent...he is calmly, soberly, demonstrably sure that, sooner or later, his will be the winning side, and that the victory will be complete, universal, eternal.”

The sermon was published with the title “National Apostasy” and helped launch the Oxford Movement or Tractarian Movement, of which he was an important part, along with John Henry Newman and Edward Pusey. It has influenced religious thinking, practice and worship. For example they felt that it should be common practice for all Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion every Sunday.

In 1835 Keble's father died. He married Charlotte Clark and became Vicar of Hursley, Hampshire, where he stayed for the rest of his working life. He wrote other books, hymns, and translations, but none so influential. Eventually the couple moved to the milder climate of Bournemouth. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1866, Keble died at The Hermitage Hotel. He is buried in the churchyard at Hursley. About a month later his wife died and was laid to rest beside him.

Three years after his death, as a memorial, admirers and friends established Keble College, pledged to Christian principles, and intended to be within the means of less wealthy students.

Keble's feast day is kept on 14<sup>th</sup> July in the Church of England.

# Sunday Services

## ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.00 am Sung Eucharist  
"Church at the Centre" every fourth Sunday  
Also Sunday Lunch : every second Sunday

## ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am Parish Eucharist

## Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	2.30 pm	Parish Mothers' Union – St James (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon)
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Tuesday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	10.00 am	Seashells Toddler Group : St James
	12.00 pm	Eucharist – St James
	12.30 pm	Tuesday Lunch Club – St James
	2.30 pm	Friends of St Francis – St Francis (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> )
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Wednesday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Thursday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Friday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer – St James

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

**Tuesday 12.30 pm to 3 pm**  
**Fridays 9.00 am to 3 pm.**

and by appointment.

**Parish Secretary:** Elaine Ulett

**Ministry Team Telephone:**

01865 747 680

[parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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.*

**Non-Stipendiary Ministers**

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

13 Annesley Road

Oxford, OX4 4JH

Tel: 01865 461953

[markoxbrow@aol.com](mailto:markoxbrow@aol.com)

Revd Amanda Bloor

Diocesan Church House

North Hinksey

Oxford OX2 0NB

Tel: 01865 208 221

[parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk)

**Churchwardens:**

Gerald Ives

Tel: 07972 833 060

Norah Shallow

Tel: 765199

**Deputy Wardens:**

Margaret Martin Tel: 718532

Pat Chung: Tel: 773792