

Joy, excitement, and beauty

While most people were singing their hearts out at the Cowley Proms, I was busy taking pictures. Now you might say that was terrible, but I couldn't help it; I was fascinated.

What a night it was. Something amazing happens when people come together for an enjoyable occasion. You see it on the faces, hear it in the conversations. St James Church Centre is a great venue and the decorations, the fabulous food (Christine Woodman and her culinary team provided vol-au-vents and smoked salmon sandwiches and fruit kebabs), and the champagne (Frank Butler, you did it again) turned the evening into something to celebrate.

Then there was the music from the Jubilee Brass Band and the Rosetti String Quartet along with Brian Tidy on the Organ. Vocal soloist Morag Crowther - and the choir the North Oxfordshire Young Singers (who stole so many hearts) combined to turn the evening into something that touched many people's emotions. I'm a Canadian and I thought English people were supposed to be reserved. But you put your hearts and emotions into the love of this country in a way that I've never seen Canadians do. As I listened to the words you sang with such conviction and the love and commitment, I realised that I was in the midst of an act of worship.

When you read this you might say,

"No, that could never be." But I am convinced it was.

It was an important insight for me. I have heard other people say, "Oh, you know you can never get English people to really worship." They write off all emotion at church as "happy-clappy." But there at the Cowley Proms I was a first-hand witness to worship on a scale that I have not seen since David and I went to an Oxford/Hartlepool match at Kassam Stadium a few years ago. It made me realise that what we do every Sunday morning is supposed to be a celebration that touches our minds and our hearts. Worship of God needs to be a mix of reverence and enthusiasm, intellect and emotion, fear of the Lord and great joy at being in His presence. So true worship of God will have a different look and feel to that of the Cowley Proms – but might it be that we have been too quick to play down the joy and excitement, and beauty, and love that comes from praising God, giving him glory, and standing in his presence.

If you would like to think a bit more about worship and how we might allow God's Holy Spirit more room in our worship, why not join one of our home groups. Many of them are looking at worship and what it means for us.

Howard

Chronicle

October
2009

Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

Well, that was September! We do hope that the distribution of the first "paid for" Chronicle went well for all of you. Thank you so much for giving your subscriptions in so willingly. It is helpful to know exactly how many copies to print. A big "Thank You" to Stella and May for all they are doing to ensure that distribution goes smoothly. If there were any hiccups please let us know (for instance one lady informed us that the little label on the top of her magazine had both her first name and surname misspelt - sorry Erma!)

We would also like to thank Una for her appreciative letter (September Chronicle.) We take much encouragement from comments such as hers.

October is shaping up into a very busy month in the parish. Most of the activities planned are featured in the following pages. We sometimes wonder if other par-

ishes embark on a programme as full as ours - we certainly know how to balance our church life, both spiritual and social, don't we?

Finally we would like to add how pleased we are and, judging by those who have spoken to us, you are too, that the threat of combining St Christopher's School with the proposed new academy school has been lifted. We really do need to keep all our church primary schools within our parish for the benefit of so many of our local children. Those of you who signed the petition to maintain the status quo must be very pleased that the school can now move on to greater success.

We hope you enjoy your October Chronicle.

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/index.php

The Chronicle is edited by Rosanne Butler and Carol Thornton, and published by Philip Hind. Material from St Francis church members is collected by John Shreeve. This is the email address: 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 November issue, please submit it by **13 October**.

God in My Life

Although I had become a Christian while working on the production line at Rover Cars, Cowley (a story that I will tell another time perhaps), I found myself far too busy to do much about it. After getting married to Sean in 1991 at St James Church and having four children in quick succession, I began to think about having the children baptised. However, I was still working as a welder at Rover, and used to take my children to John Bunyan Baptist Church's Toddler Group on the corner of Crowell Road, on a Friday morning after finishing the late shift. It was there that I met other mothers, some of whom happened to attend St. James. It was there that Rosanne Appleton invited me on a breakfast Alpha course at her house to find out more about Christianity.

Well, thank God I did go on the course, because my life has never been the same since, even better in fact! There were a few other mums from Cowley St. James School, so a creche in the old church hut was provided, so that we could relax knowing that all was being taken care of. We had some delicious croissants and fancy pastries, interesting talks, and thought-provoking questions. I was amazed to find out more and more about God. I knew that God knew all about me because I would ask God a question and find that very question answered the following week. Or even more amazing, I would just happen to open my bible at the very page that would answer a question I had just asked Him!

The Holy Spirit day away at South Leigh was awesome. I found the presence of God to be wonderfully real indeed, very gracious and overwhelmingly loving. Just before Christmas that year, we had all four of our children christened at St. James and I have been a regular member ever since. God has been a huge part of my life through good

times and more so through the not so good times. Since having been on Alpha myself, I have helped at various other Alpha courses, some of which have been in men's prisons. Seeing the Holy Spirit transform lives, heal drug addictions, and set people free by God's grace and forgiveness have been some of the most awesome experiences of my life. Seeing prisoners leave the chapel drunk on the Holy Spirit, and joyfully going back to their cells *is* an awesome sight indeed!

I currently help at an Alpha course at St. James on Wednesday evenings and attend Tony Beetham's home group on Tuesday evenings, which are the highlights of my week. I used to think that being a Christian would be boring, but it has turned out to be the best adventure of my life... there's so much more to come!

Beverley Hughes

Harvest Festival at St Francis

At St Francis we will celebrate the Harvest Festival on **Sunday 18 October, at 10.30am.**

Please bring dry goods that we can pass on to a local charity, Steppin' Stone (previously The Porch) in St Mary's Road, which works with homeless people.

There will be a simple lunch of soup and rolls after the ser-



christian aid leader

Christian Aid Week usually falls in July, and the preparation for this event must take place two or three weeks before the week itself.

Howard approached me earlier in the year and asked me if I could organise the 2009 event, with the help of Lesley Williams. It ended up with Lesley doing all the organising and me helping her. This is an enormous job, and requires dozens of people to push envelopes through doors and a week later

Autumn Recipes

Now that autumn is upon us, it's a good time to make goodies for winter store cupboards or even to sell at the parish craft sale. We thought you might like a couple of recipes to use up your green tomatoes or the lovely marrows that are around at the moment.

Green Tomato Chutney

3 lbs green tomatoes
1/2 oz salt
4 oz sultanas
4 oz chopped apple
6 oz sugar
1/2 oz mustard seed
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon pickling spice
3/4 pint vinegar.

Wash and chop tomatoes very finely. Place in a bowl, sprinkle with salt and leave overnight. Next day, drain off liquid and turn into a preserving pan. Add all the other ingredients and cook slowly, stirring occasionally, for about two hours until the mixture has turned to pulp. Pour into sterilised jars when cool enough,

collect them up again. This is such a large parish that the roads within it are split up into areas, i.e. St James Church is allocated one area, John Bunyan another area and so on. I'm not sure if the Roman Catholic churches get involved or not. It appears that some roads do not have any collectors at all so the split up misses out in some cases. (My own area is missed every year so Rosanne does it all herself.)

As you already **Continued on page 9**

and cover with paper discs and lids.

Marrow Chutney

3 lb marrow
2 tablespoons salt
1/2 lb shallots or onions finely chopped
1/2 lb green apples finely chopped
1/2 lb sultanas
12 peppercorns
1/4 to 1/2 root ginger
4 oz sugar
1 1/4 pints vinegar

Skin marrow, chop into chunks, place in a bowl and sprinkle with salt. Leave overnight. Drain marrow and rinse with cold water. Place in preserving pan with onion, apple and sultanas.

Tie peppercorns and ginger in piece of muslin and add to pan.

Pulp all ingredients in pan and simmer gently till all is fully cooked.

Remove spices.

Cool slightly and pour into sterilized jars.

Top with paper discs and lids.

Our recipe book is old-fashioned enough to use imperial measures. Of course you can convert to grams and litres if you wish. By the way, don't forget to label your jars.

Saint of the Month Saint Francis

As we come up to yet another Patronal Festival at St Francis, I feel sad that so few people in our church know much about our own chosen saint. At most they remember him as the man who loved the birds and animals. Yet there is so much more to him that that, as some of us learned when we went on a pilgrimage to Assisi, his home town in Italy, some years ago. The more we followed the trails of his journeys, and saw the quiet places where he liked to pray and meditate, and the more we found out about his life and circumstances, the more we felt that here was a man of immense spiritual stature.

He was born the son of a wealthy merchant, so he knew the good life, and as a young man he liked roistering about town having a good time with his friends. All that changed after an experience in his favourite Chapel, as he knelt in prayer before the crucifix. He felt that Christ was speaking to him, telling him to rebuild his church.

He thought the Lord meant literally with bricks and mortar, and started to rebuild one of the local churches that had fallen into disrepair. However our Lord was speaking about building the church spiritually, which Francis was to achieve later. The church in Italy in 1181, when he was born, had grown away from God and out of touch with the ordinary people, and Francis came like a breath of spring to a tired world. The established church had grown too fond of high living, and pomp and circumstance. Francis hated all that, and took a vow of abstinence and poverty. It was a vow that he was to impose on his fellow brothers in Christ when he first founded the Franciscan Brotherhood, which was later to spread throughout Europe. He laid down very strict rules for their daily living, and took them to the Pope and obtained the

Vatican's approval.

Daily he would retire to pray and experience great spiritual sweetness. One day he heard these words: "Francis, you must now learn to despise and hate what you have hitherto loved in the flesh, if you are to understand my will. And once you have begun to do this you will find what was bitter and hard become sweet and pleasant, and all that you thought of with terror and gloom will bring you happiness and peace." Francis certainly proved the truth in these words in the very hard life that he lived, for happiness and peace became his very watch words. On one of the houses that he lived he had written the following words: "Pace en Bene." Peace and Goodness. His example made people see God in a new light, and will, I hope, do the same for us.

John Shreeve.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Greetings to St Francis congregation as they celebrate their patronal festival with a bring-and-share lunch. We hope it turns out to be a particularly happy occasion as your October Chronicle is published the same day and you can mull it over after lunch and discuss this issue. We hope our ears won't be burning too much! Any topics which arise might spark off a letter or two. Don't forget to write.

Rosanne Interviews Erma Clark

It is not necessarily true that a wartime childhood in a simple home with a large family and a father severely injured during his army service is a sad one. No; simply to talk to Erma for a few minutes about her childhood and she will tell you with a smile that her early years were extraordinarily happy. In fact, she was quick to tell me that childhood days would fill most of this interview. So let's start at the very beginning.

Erma was born only a few months after the beginning of the second world war. Her parents lived in a flat in London though her father was, by then, serving as an army despatch rider. When buildings across the street were destroyed by bombs, her mother was so desperately worried both for herself and her tiny daughter she, like so many parents, decided to seek safety. They evacuated to Cowley.

Erma's aunt owned a house in Ridgefield Road and she took them in. So from babyhood, Erma grew up alongside two cousins, an auntie, and her mum, and soon after their arrival, her badly injured father. He, poor man, suffered the effects of his in-

juries for the rest of his life. Three more children were born, two boys and a girl, to add to the family, so Erma became the eldest of four. The small house in Ridgefield Road, though tightly packed, was a very happy place. Surrounded by adults and as a big sister, Erma grew up quickly. To illustrate this she told me that at eight she did most of the family shopping, taking ration books and cash to the shops in the Cowley Road (predominantly the Co-Op.) Those were the days before self-service, so she would astutely check the cheese being weighed out on the scales each week. If it was being cut from the outside of the big round and the portion might have a large amount of rind around it, she would refuse it, and the family would do without cheese that week. She was not going to surrender coupons and good money on stuff you couldn't eat!

But I have jumped ahead. At the age of four she attended Bartlemas Nursery School and from there moved on to East Oxford infant, junior and secondary school in Union Street. She loved her school days despite a mixed bag of teachers, some very nice and some distinctly odd

(at least from a child's point of view.) Because she was adept at story-telling to the babies at home, during nursery afternoon rest time she often found herself, instead of one of the teachers, telling stories to the other children. Because in those days there was no National Insurance income for her injured father, her mother took on two jobs and Erma played a major role in looking after the little ones. She describes her mum as "one of the best" and her dad as "pretty strict."

When she was about six or seven she found her way to James Street Congregational Church, where she met a clergyman who had, and still has, a big influence on her life. He was the minister, the Revd Henry Starkey. From Erma's description he sounds like exactly the right person to encounter early on your Christian journey, because he taught that you can talk (pray) to God anywhere and at any time, and six-year-old Erma liked that. She also liked the fact that he was not stiff and starchy. She told a story about how her mum would insist that the family was neatly and smartly dressed for Sunday worship. Thus Erma thought you

could not enter church in old or grubby clothes, especially when she looked around at the rest of the congregation in their Sunday best. However, when she was a little older she spent one Sunday afternoon helping to re-decorate the church hall and along with the other helpers got splattered with paint and very dusty. Revd Sharkey suggested that she stay on for the evening service, but she protested that she couldn't go into church as she was. "Of course you can; I'm going to. He pulled his robes over his paint-spattered clothes and took the service. It was at this point that Erma learned that God doesn't mind about outside show; it's what is on the inside that matters.

Another delight for her was Brownies. She joined the SS Mary and John pack and was told she had to attend church services there. Well, she tried, but found the High Church ambience, with incense and so on, was not for her. Instead she joined another pack further down the Cowley Road and continued to worship at the James Street church. There she joined the choir and remembers how she and her fellow choristers would accompany Revd Sharkey when he took simple Sunday evening services at Cowley Road hospital.

In fact, as a teenager most of her social activities centred

around the church – country dance evenings, and helping with jumble sales, Christmas fairs and so on. There was also school. An above-average student, her outstanding subject was maths. Never a keen sportswoman, she got plenty of exercise by walking everywhere and of course at those country dance evenings. After leaving school at fifteen she worked briefly in the post-room at Morris Motors. However, her Ridgefield Road auntie moved into the flat in London which, incidentally, hadn't been bombed, talking her two sons and her niece with her. Erma told me she has no idea why this decision was made on her behalf but in the 40s and 50s you were told what to do and you did it! She went to work in an office where she learned many skills including how to handle the switchboard and deal with accounts. The most important thing she discovered, though, was that she had fallen in love with a young man named Maurice who also worked for the firm. Maurice felt the same, and four and a half years later the young couple was married. They moved into Chingford in Essex and later to their own house in a village near Stevenage. There they stayed throughout the 45 happy years of their marriage.

They loved their country garden and for holidays bought a caravan. Once Maurice re-

tired they spent an increasing amount of time exploring Britain. Erma had until then worked for a large company with the responsibility for accounts and pensions of about 6000 employees.

Out of the blue, three days before their 45th wedding anniversary, on Christmas afternoon, her dear husband suffered a severe heart attack and died. She found herself having to cope but told me that time has not blurred her sense of loss and she doesn't think it ever will.

After Maurice's death Erma came back to Cowley. Her brother Bill lives on the Florence park estate and his wife, Christine Knevet, worships at St James, as does her brother-in-law John. It was Chris who brought her along to St James, her first real encounter with the church of England. She found incomparable warmth and friendliness here.

Since childhood she has been a keen walker. She often strolls into the city to shop, returning the same way. She suggested that if at any time I need to contact her, I would seldom find her at home between 9 am and 4 pm as she is always out and about. One of her delights is to act as "extra granny" for Bill and Chris's grandchildren or anyone else's she can borrow. Her whole faith, she says, is summed up in this lovely hymn in *The Source* which she

urged me to quote.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful
face,
And the things of earth will
grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and
grace.

Helen H Lemmel

How would you describe yourself as a child?

Bossy and busy.

Do you have a memory of childhood that you'd like to share?

As a little girl what I really liked were the Sunday School outings. Maida, my sister, and I loved Wicksteed Park. We thought it was huge, but when we took our husbands there it seemed to have shrunk.

Has God always been part of your life?

Yes, he has always been there. When Maurice died I knew he went the way he would have wanted, so I didn't rant and rave at God.

What do you think of modern society?

I'm actually sad about it. There are a lot of awfully nice people about and yet all we hear is doom and gloom. (It's the media's fault.) I wish we could hear more about the good things.

What disappoints you about life today?

The filthy dirty mess we have around us.

What do you do in your spare time?

I don't have any! Oh well, I do enjoy Sudoku; it's much better than TV. I've just joined a flower arranging club.

What makes life good for you?

What I really like is the natural world. My birds (Erma has a set of bird feeders), other people's gardens. I like to sing when I go for a walk as well.

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

My married life – 45 years minus three days.

Have you any plans for the future?

I just want to go along as I am.

St James Craft and Gifts Fair

St James Craft and Gifts Fair will take place this year on **Saturday 14 November** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We make our money for St James by "selling" the tables to stallholders, charging a good amount, which ensures we get good quality crafts from people who are serious about what they do.

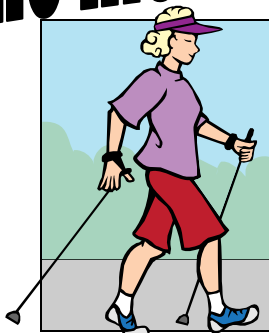
The list of stalls is not yet complete, but to date we have booked a traditional wooden toy maker, four jewellery stalls (all producing different types of jewellery), pretty handmade paper items, sugar craft and Christmas cakes for sale, oil paintings, knitted toys and other items, wood-turning, Christmas table decorations, pomanders and lavender bags, mincemeat and preserves, Aloe Vera and Phoenix cards.

There will be no handbell ringers this year, so the St James stall will be in the entrance of the Church Centre. If anyone wishes to make crafts for that or donate other items they will be gratefully received (new unwanted items only please.) It can include anything – cosmetics, knits, preserves, pot plants etc. There will also be the usual cake and book stall as well as refreshments throughout the day.

It would be nice to arrange a few small things for children - such as a face painter if we can find one. If anyone knows of one please let us know! The Fair will be widely publicised as usual about a month before the event, and flyers will be available from mid-October. We hope this year will be as much a success as it has been in recent years. Please tell (and bring) your friends, neighbours and family!

Pauline Shephard

The Historic Churches Trust Ride + Stride



Following my request for riders and walkers and for sponsors to support them I, as the parish co-ordinator of the event, have been overwhelmed by your response. This year nine people took an active part whereas in past years we have been lucky to drum up two or three.

Although all the sponsor money is not yet in, it looks as though as a parish we are set to break our record total by a huge amount. On a reckoning I think we might make almost £600, a 50% increase on last year. Isn't that wonderful?

Of course special mentions go to John Shreeve, who cycled round twelve churches, and Jane Coutance, who also cycled from St Francis. From St James, Erma Clarke and Chris Knevet walked round all the City churches; both Rose Neal and Dave Stanley got on their bikes, and Jamie Brown (aged 11) and I walked from St. Francis through Cowley, Iffley, along the river to Sandford and back home through Littlemore. However the champion this year must be Susie Pavelin, who cycled right out to Towersey and has amassed about £200 for the charities.

Many, many thanks to everyone, not forgetting the lovely, friendly folk who acted as welcomers at our two churches.

Once it has all been sent off, I will publish the grand total raised.



Rosanne

Christian aid leader

continued from page 4

know, we have some very long roads in Cowley with hundreds of houses, so roads like these need five or six people to distribute envelopes and later in the week return to pick them up. It is tough work both for the feet and soul. Some house holders are kind, generous and polite – others are not. So we have a problem. We need lots and lots of people to volunteer to help with Christian Aid Week, which in 2010 is May 9-15. But firstly we need a church rep for St James. Phil Thomas did this job for years but has had to give up now and a replacement is required.

I do not want to take it on as I feel I have enough to do. I have spoken to Howard

and told him this.

Is there anyone out there who would like to have a crack at it? It could be a team job if necessary.

I have spoken to one of the Oxford organisers about having a meeting of Cowley Church Reps prior to Christian Aid week 2010, and James Grote (John Bunyan Church) has been spoken to about this so we will see what happens. With any luck, Cowley will be divided into areas agreeable to all.

Frank Butler

All good gifts around us...

A few words from a hymn that will brighten churches in the next weeks. "We plough the fields and scatter" is well-loved and enjoyed to celebrate Harvest. It thanks God for all that we have. I celebrate every time I work in and enjoy the fruits of my labour in both my garden and allotment. In turn, we should give something back. We can give our time and talents – cleaning the church, say, or ringing bells or cooking lunches or taking minutes at meetings.

However, wearing my treasurer hat, I want to talk about money. It can be a dirty word to us Brits but we do have to be practical. Last year our parish finances were in deficit by over £5000. That means that we paid out £5000 more than we received in income.

We cannot continue like this.

This year so far, it has cost us £937 each and every week to keep St James afloat and the income from donations and tax claimed is just £713 per week. The figures for St Francis are £508 costs and £421 of income where this is boosted by lettings. (I am ignoring costs and income of the Church Centre which roughly balance).

If you do the maths, it means that each and every week, we are £311 adrift. Of course, we have some wonderful fund-raising events where people work really hard and raise some marvelous and much-needed funds. But if you multiply £311 by 52 weeks in the year, we are heading for another big deficit.

So, what about giving? Back in the Middle Ages and beyond, every household was coerced to tithe, that is, to give one tenth of income in either cash or goods to the church. Happily, the days of coercion have gone. We don't want to be obliged to give

but to give willingly and with love.

So how much should we give? One tenth of one's income can be a daunting figure. Someone was saying to me that we all have things that we have to pay for – mortgage or rent, council tax, keeping warm and clean, transport, clothes, food on the table etc. etc. After paying for all these things, hopefully we have money left over, our "pocket money" if you like. It is this money that we can think about tithing. One tenth can be gladly given to the church and to charity. If you give by standing order as well you never really miss it. Also, if you pay tax and you gift-aid the money, the parish can claim the tax you have already paid on that sum! After all that you will have a mighty nine-tenths to do with what you want!!!

I hope I have given you food for thought and that you will think prayerfully about helping to keep our church community of Cowley going for future generations to enjoy.

Joan Coleman, Parish Treasurer. 95, Crescent Road. OX4 2NY Tel: 770865 E-mail: ojcoleman@btinternet.com

IF I ONLY HAD

"If I only had" – or "just had not",
"Had I but taken a bit more thought",
"Had I but said what I should have said
Or not done what I did instead"...

What senseless thoughts, regretting now
What cannot be changed anyhow.
The past is gone, with no return,
No matter how our hearts may yearn.

The years ahead are still to live
And need the best that we can give,
So at life's end we may be glad
No to think again, "If only I had..."

Gertrude Wood

Butterfly Tea Party

The first Butterfly Tea Party took place on Saturday 19 September in St James Church Centre during Children's Hospice

Week. This event was organised nationally in partnership between Children's Hospices UK and the greetings card publisher Phoenix Trading (for which I am an Independent Trader). Children's Hospices UK is a national charity that gives voice and support to UK children's hospices (including Helen and Douglas House).

The initial aim of Phoenix Trading was to raise £25,000 for CHUK, by asking its independent traders to hold these tea parties (the Butterfly comes from the logo of CHUK), and by producing a limited edition card and donating 50p from the company for each card sold. The cards sold out within a week raising the bulk of the £25,000 before we had even started other fundraising.

The tea party held at St James Church was intended for everyone - tea, cakes, and chat, with a couple of stalls for grown-ups and, because it is a children's charity, a few activities for children. The stalls served the dual purpose of generating a little more money and having people linger to buy more tea and cakes! The jewellery stall and the Phoenix Trading stall donated a percentage of profits, which covered the cost of hiring the hall as well as a donation to the cause, and all proceeds from tea, cakes, the bring and buy stall and the children's activities went directly to the charity.

The event was not terribly well attended but even so our tea party raised £120.00 for the charity, plus to date £31 from the sale of the raffle tickets for the national draw (these are still on sale). We hope to make this an annual event and it will be advertised more widely in future. The total figure raised nationally will be available at a later date.

Pauline Sheppard

On Saturday,
8th August

5th Cowley Guide Camp - Summer 2009

2009, 12 guides and 10 leaders from 5th Cowley and 1st Blackbird Leys Guides set off for summer camp 2009. We were all very excited! After an hour long journey we arrived at Deer Park, Gloucester and had to unload a van full of tents and camping equipment. For the first time in three years we got to set up camp in the sunshine! It took us a few hours to set up the 12 tents.

During the week we participated in a number of activities, including archery, grass sledging, low ropes, pistol shooting, traverse wall, and mountain biking. We also took part in activities planned for us by our leaders. A few of these were t-shirt painting, a treasure hunt and camp fires.

On Tuesday we cooked our own food. It was great fun and for many of the other Guides it was their first attempt at cooking on an open fire. The food was edible and we even managed not to burn anything!

Bristol Zoo was the destination for our day out on the Wednesday. We had great fun looking at the different animals, and spent lots of time and money in the gift shop.

After two weeks of torrential rain at camp we were really lucky; it only rained once all week! Before we knew it, it was time to pack up and come home.

Thanks to the leaders for another great camp!!

Alice Watkins

Christians at the Cutting Edge



One of the most interesting books I ever came across had a strange title. It was called, "In Darkest England and the Way Out"!

In appearance it wasn't very attractive, with a plain black cover and old fashioned print, and it had a very unusual map at the back. However, as my later researches showed, it was a real bombshell of a book, for it marked the appearance of a new religious movement, and also helped to change England for the better.

It was written at a time when our empire was in the ascendant. We were a prosperous nation, and leading the world in the industrial revolution with huge new developments in engineering – railways, mills, and so on. Yet underneath all this there were dark currents of very serious problems – disease, hunger, destitution, unemployment, crime, slum housing, and cruel treatment of workers, many of whom were children. Charles Dickens had highlighted some of these things in his famous novels. Yet still, in spite of that, little was being done by

the government, the local authorities or even the churches to remedy the situation. Then there appeared from the ranks of our church a small body of very committed Christians who saw things as they really were, and pledged themselves to face these problems and try to change things.

Being wise people, they decided to get some facts and figures in front of them, before deciding upon what action they would take. Researchers were sent out to all corners of the country to find out how things were at ground level. When they returned with the facts and statistics, and a social map had been drawn up of the worst areas, they were horrified. Someone looked at the map and said, "This is terrible; it looks like a battlefield."

Someone else replied, "Well, if it looks like a battlefield, why don't we handle it like an army?" And that is how the idea of the Salvation Army came into being.

Headed by the great

General Booth, it became a real force for good in very difficult areas. When members first appeared on the streets in their strange uniforms, people jeered and threw mud at them. However they soon changed their tune when they realised that the Salvationists were made of sterner stuff, and were doing some real good and changing things. Young Salvation Army lassies would go out in pairs to the very worst slum areas – to places where even the police wouldn't go.

The only weapons they had were the bibles in their pockets and a great faith and compassion in their hearts. They tackled crime and destitution, poverty and hunger head on, and with the help of the Lord, came out triumphant. We owe them a huge debt.

John Shreeve

COTSWOLDS WILDLIFE PARK - GUIDING CENTENARY LAUNCH

To celebrate 100 years of guiding, all those involved in Guiding in Oxfordshire were invited to join the launch of the Centenary celebrations at the Cotswolds Wildlife Park on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September 2009. My Guide unit - 5th Cowley - went on the Saturday. We met our coach at Florence Park and shared it with Brownies and Rainbows.

When we arrived at the park, we walked around to look at all the different animals. The leopards made themselves invisible but the penguins entertained us by jumping into the pool! We went on a train ride which took us around the park and we all had ice creams. At lunch-time we met by a big marquee set up for our activities. We had great fun singing with the other guides. The wide game was good fun and resulted in us getting covered in gunge.

There were around 2000 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and leaders at the park. The sun shone all day, we each received a goodie bag, and a great day was had by all!

Alice Watkins



A GIFT OF LOVE

Early Christmas thoughts are with us, and the ladies of St Francis are busy filling shoe boxes.

Goodies will be sent to deprived children in orphanages, hospitals, displaced persons' camps – in fact the very needy – to bring them a little joy and happiness at the time we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Our thanks go to all of you who have helped us so generously in the past. (Last year more than 100 boxes were made up.) We hope to do as well this year. Pat Young has already covered over 50 boxes so we are doing well.

Helen Doling arranges the transport. For each box we have to pay £2.50 carriage, so if anyone could make a donation towards this it would be greatly appreciated.

Also, if you have shoe boxes or Christmas wrapping paper to spare we would be very pleased

BAPTISM OF OTTILIE ROSE REIDE

When Ottilie was a few months old, Fergus and I thought about where we would like her to be baptised, whether in Marlborough or Oxford. Although we have good friends in Marlborough, we decided that we wanted her to be baptised in her new place, where the next stage of our life was beginning. Ottilie is a wonderful, lively person with a good sense of humour.

She will be baptised in St Francis Church on

Sunday 11 October in the 10.30am service, celebrated by Julian Hubbard, who is the Archdeacon of Oxford. Julian has been helpful and supportive of our coming to Cowley, and I was keen for someone else to be the minister at the service.

Everyone is very welcome to come to the baptism and there will be cake after the service.

Susannah Reide

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

You are sad, phone John 14
You have sinned, phone Psalm 51
You are facing danger, phone Psalm 91
People have failed you, phone Psalm 27
It feels as though God is far from you, phone Psalm 139
Your faith needs stimulation, phone Hebrews 11
You are alone and scared, phone Psalm 23
You are worried, phone Matthew 8:19-34
You are hurt and critical, phone 1 Corinthians 13
You are worried about Christianity, phone 2 Corinthians 5:15-18
You feel like an outcast, phone Romans 8:31-39
You are seeking peace, phone Matthew 11:25-30
It feels as if the world is bigger than God, phone Psalm 90
You need Christ-like insurance, phone Romans 8:1-30
You are leaving home for a trip, phone Psalm 121
You are praying for yourself, phone Psalm 87
You require courage for a task, phone Joshua 1
Inflation and investments are hogging your thoughts, phone Mark 10:17-31
You are depressed, phone Psalm 27
Your bank account is empty, phone Psalm 37
You lose faith in mankind, phone 1 Corinthians 13
It looks like people are unfriendly, phone John 15
You are losing hope, phone Psalm 126
You feel the world is small compared to you, phone Psalm 19
You want to carry fruit, phone John 15
Paul's secret for happiness, phone Colossians 3:12-17
With big opportunity/discovery, phone Isaiah 55
To get along with people, phone Romans 12

ALTERNATE NUMBERS

For dealing with fear, call Psalm 47
For security, call Psalm 121:3
For assurance, call Mark 8:35
For reassurance, call Psalm 145:18

All these numbers may be phoned directly.
No operator assistance is necessary.
All lines to heaven are available 24 hours a day.
Feed your faith, and doubt will starve to death.

Submitted by May Morgan



Lectures at CMS



The Crowther Centre for Mission Education warmly invites you to a public lecture series on “Mission in Context” at the Crowther Centre, Oxford.

15 October at 8pm

What Does Contextual Theology Have to Offer the Church of the Twenty-first Century?

Stephen Bevans SVD, the Louis J Lutzepak Professor of Mission and Culture, Chicago Theological Union

22 October at 8 pm

Variations on a Theme by Anselm: Doing Theology in Today’s Global Context

Stephen Bevans SVD

29 October at 8 pm

Gown: Mission in our context: Promoting true and lively faith in Jesus Christ. The Oxford Pastorate and the Graduate Student Community

Jonathan Brant, Graduate Pastorate Chaplain in the University of Oxford

5 November at 8 pm

Town: Mission in our context

Hugh Lee, formerly City Rector and Priest in Charge, St Michael at the North Gate, Oxford.

Before these lectures, a meal will be served from 7pm at the CMS cafe. Cost of the meal: £8 to be paid on the day. RSVP for the meal 7 days before the lecture of your choice to: cathy.ross@cms-uk.org

For more information:

Crowther Centre for Mission Education

CMS, Watlington Rd, Oxford OX4 6BZ

Email: cathy.ross@cms-uk.org Tel: 01865 787400

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 third 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 rd 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 nd & 4 th)
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

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

Revd Amanda Bloor
Diocesan Church House
North Hinksey
Oxford OX2 0NB
Tel: 01865 208 221
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