

Are you listening?

For the past seven years, leaders of the parish have been meeting to discern God's will for us. I remember the very first year when we asked, "Why are we here? What on earth are we doing for heaven's sake? Why are we here? What is our purpose?" As we began the day a lot of people said, "What do you mean by asking what our purpose is? We're the church. We don't need a purpose, we just need to be the church." Over the years we had such adventures exploring what God is calling his church to do and be. In fact, for me, these meetings are among the highest points of the year. I'm always excited to listen to what people have to say about what God is doing in Cowley.

Life is like being on an exciting journey. When you're on a journey, you can't get to where you're going unless you have a destination and some directions. Where is God calling you as an individual? As a parish, where is he calling us over the next seven years?

God has given us directions for the journey. The most frequent command in the Bible is, "Do not be afraid." Through the prophet Isaiah, God told the people of Israel not to be afraid: "for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you." (Isaiah 43) God goes on to say that you were called for a purpose and that he is going to transform the world and you have a part to play in it. So, how do you do it?

First (and this should be the beginning of everything you do) pray. So often Gordon Hickson has said (and I know it's true) "Nothing will happen without prayer." If you would, start praying about this today, and keep going until at least September 6th (the date of our parish Day of Vision, Purpose and Unity).

Along with prayer, read the Bible. The Bible is God's word to you. Within its pages God speaks about His will for you. So read it and pray as you read it, "Lord, show me your will." Be self-aware: know your strengths and weaknesses well enough that you are able to sense the gifts that God has given you and that He is calling you to use.

The next step can be difficult for some of us. Listen. Remember, God gave you two ears and one mouth. So find somewhere quiet where you can sit and spend time in your own thoughts. Pay attention, because in the midst of it you might sense something from God. When you do, write it down. Then do some research. Talk to someone about what you've been thinking and listening to and trying to discern. Read what others have said and written about God and his calling to them.

Watch for things. God might speak to you in ways you'd never have expected. He may give the milkman or the dentist or a teacher or your daughter some amazing prophetic word. In the movie Bruce Almighty, Bruce keeps asking for a sign, but over and over again he misses the actual signs God places in front of him. So pay attention. Find new ways to worship God. Often in the middle of worship when we are focused not on ourselves or our problems but on God, we are able to hear him speak. I recommend writing things down, because sometimes we forget the ways in which God speaks to us.

Please consider this as your invitation to be a part of our Parish Day of Vision, Purpose and Unity. What on earth is God calling you to do for heaven's sake?

Saturday 6 September 2014. Mark it in your calendar today (please).

HOWARD

Chronicle

July / August
2014

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

I think this is a first for me as I am writing to you seated in my sun-lit back garden amongst the butterflies, the bees and the summer flowers. It seems all the more poignant when I think of those summer days a hundred years ago when so many young men were sent away from their gardens and the beautiful English countryside to fight and die in a cruel war.

I hope you approve of this commemorative issue of The Chronicle which we have put together for our double summer magazine. The Chronicle team felt it right that we mark August 1914 (when the First World War began) with some appropriate articles of gratitude and remembrance.

Now, what is happening at St Luke's? Several people have asked that question. The answer is the replacement of the louvres. High up in the tower, as most of our readers know, there are "windows" with wooden slats, called louvres. These apparently had become rotten and were falling out. Not wanting to hit someone on the head the City Council had lots (and lots!) of scaffolding put in place and are doing the repairs.

On mid-summer day the sun shone beautifully and Florence Park was en fete. It really was a lovely day to grace their 80th anniversary of the building of the estate. The park looked magnificent and the tents, marquees, side shows and other attractions gave the whole event a typical village fete atmosphere. Crowds of people arrived, Larkrise School Samba Band were magnificent, families picnicked in the shade of the trees and old friends and neighbours greeted each other with delight. I am sure the whole event was everything the organisers hoped it would be.

This seems a very suitable place in our magazine to congratulate our friend Patrick Gilday on his ordination. We sincerely hope that the years

ahead in his ministry will be full of joy wherever God decides to send him.

As this is the double issue there are several things we need to remind readers about. First, please do not forget to pick up and fill in your order forms for the next year's Chronicles. Let May Morgan have them in good time so that she can put your named copies in our churches at the beginning of September. Next, speaking of September, watch out for June Smith's article about the next Ride 'n Stride day on Saturday, 13th. Sponsor forms will be in both St Francis and St James over the summer and we do really need willing participants to walk or ride on the day. We, of course, also need our generous sponsors to back them in their efforts. I know it seems that we put our hands in our pockets quite a lot but it is all in a very good cause – half towards parish funds and half to help historic churches to survive.

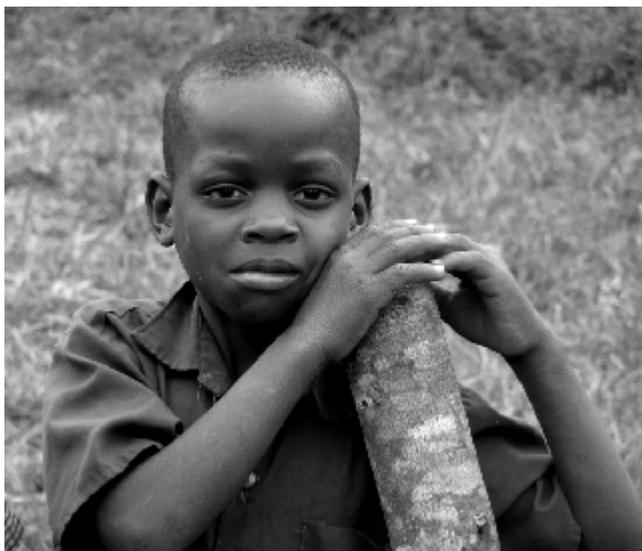
On the same day as the Ride 'n Stride, both our lovely churches are participating in the Open Doors Scheme run by the Oxford Preservation Trust. Many people walk by our locked church doors and wonder what is inside. We know, don't we, from the stunning painted beams in St Francis to the unique reredos in St James, and much more. Do encourage people to take a look inside. That first step over the threshold can often lead to greater things.

In September, too, we celebrate our Harvest Festival. This year it will be held on the last Sunday of the month – a date to put in our diaries.

As I enter my sixth year of editing The Chronicle I would like to say how encouraged I am by the great articles we receive from you. I do not want to mention names (because I might leave someone out and that hurts) but our regulars are wonderful and our occasional contributors come up with some really interesting articles. Thank you all so much....

Growing up in Uganda

Growing up in Uganda today can be very confusing. The World Cup from Brazil, soap operas from the USA and adverts for the latest cars from Europe are all there on your TV screen – a TV which sits on a wooden box next to the tin chest where you keep your school books to make sure the termites do not eat them. On the screen a couple sit by a swimming pool and drink from tall cocktail glasses but the water you have in your bathroom was carried two kilometres from the bore hole where the cattle drink and although you filter it and try to keep it clean it still causes your stomach to be upset. This is Philip's story.



I met Philip (in the picture) today at Sekamuli primary school here in central Uganda. He was resting by a post he had just erected as

part of a fence around the trees the pupils have just planted. (They planted some trees before but the animals ate them because there was no fence.) Philip was on his lunch break and having eaten his beans and dug holes for the fence posts he had time to try out a little of his English on me.

Sekamuli is in the 'Luwero triangle', notorious for terrible inter-tribal killings during the last civil war. Thankfully this is just an item of history for Philip but his parents still wake at night fearful of the flashing knives and gushing blood they see in their dreams. That was the past ... what of the future? In a few years' time the future of Uganda will be in the hands of young men and women like Philip. We must pray that they find a better way forward, a future without war, without malaria and HIV, a future with clean water, good education, prosperity and hope.

I have been here in Uganda for a week to do some consultancy work with the Anglican diocese of Luwero. Their leaders are impressive, hard-working and hopeful. Join me in prayer for this diocese, especially for Philip and young people like him as they grow up and take responsibility for the future of their nation.

Mark Oxbrow
Faith2Share
(f2s@faith2share for more information)

...It is with sadness and sincere regret that I want to pay tribute to Cyril Room who died just a few days ago. Cyril was a much-loved and loyal member of our parish, generous in the extreme and even when quite poorly would tell you he was "not too bad". He will be much missed from the Bingo Club, Seashells, Film Club, St James Choir and not least from my Thursday morning home group.

He had a deep faith in God so I just want to pray that he is at peace in His Kingdom forever.

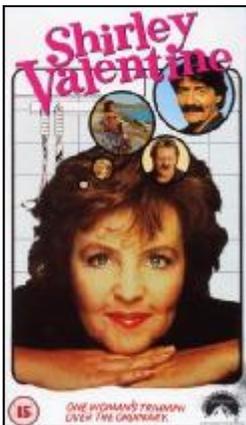
Hoping that this lovely summer sunshine goes on and on and wishing you a wonderful couple of months with holidays, barbecues and the rest. I will see you again in September.

God Bless

Rosanne

Film Club at the Centre

As usual our June club evening was well attended. The film shown was our first historical one featuring Paul Schofield as Sir Thomas More. Although the struggle between Henry VIII and the church in Rome stretched over a good many years, with clever writing and directing the action did not drag. The performances were excellent. Of course, with such serious issues at stake, there were some dark and sinister moments.



What contrasts then we have coming up in July and August. Our next showing is that light-hearted summer romp "Shirley Valentine" starring Pauline Collins and Tom Conti. As a bored housewife the main character decides to take a chance holiday in

Greece with a friend and ends up meeting a

handsome rogue with predictable consequences! A most endearing British comedy.

Then in August, as a result of several club members requests, we are showing "Oklahoma". Despite the fact that most of us have already seen and enjoyed this delightful



musical, how can we resist Gordon MacRae's "Oh what a beautiful morning" or the wonderful title song with the full company? This is, of course, showing right in the middle of the school holidays and is most suitable for youngsters to watch – so bring them along!

In conclusion we must report more generous donations from members to the tune of almost £70.

3RD COWLEY BROWNIES

On Saturday the 26th April, 3rd Cowley Brownies joined the rest of Oxfordshire Brownies on a train trip to London. The train was provided by 1st Great Western free of charge.

We had to meet at the hall at 8.00 in the morning to get into our groups, then we walked to the bus stop and got a number 5 bus to the railway station. We waited for about 20 minutes for the train to come from Charlbury.

When we got on the train we started to decorate it by putting up the things we made at Brownies and we took balloons, posters and ribbon.

We met 1st Hanney Brownies and we both sang songs on the way there, it was so much fun!

When we arrived we had about a 20 minute walk then we had lunch near water fountains and some of us got soaked by the water fountain when the wind blew it.

Then we went to find a statue of Peter Pan, afterwards we went to the magnificent Diana Memorial Garden and we walked in the water, it was freezing!

We then had a yummy ice cream which Brown Owl treated us to. We headed back to the train station for the journey back to Oxford.

The trip was part of the Brownies' 100th Birthday celebrations and I really enjoyed it!

Janine Higham

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month
from 2.30pm.

St James Church Centre—
DO NOT MEET IN AUGUST

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of month
from 2 – 4.30 pm

St James Church Centre—
DO NOT MEET IN AUGUST

St James Café at St James Church Centre
10am—1pm

The last Saturday of each month

Next open on Saturday 26 July 2014

Coffee, Cake and Communion

Once a month, every third Tuesday, 10.30 am

With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco

Close (Tel: 434160)

Film Club

Friday, 11 July 2014—"Shirley Valentine"

Friday, 8th August 2014—"Oklahoma"

St James Church Centre, commencing
at 6.30 pm with coffee and cake

Please note Additional Dates

throughout the year:

To help raise funds for essential repairs
to St. James' Church a home-made cakes
and puds stall is planned. These will
take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the
month to carry over into Wednesday and
will be held in the Church Centre.

If you enjoy baking and would like to
help by baking a cake 2 or 3 times a year
on a rota basis Chris Woodman or
Margaret Weller would be pleased to
hear from you.

Parochial Church Council

13 July 2014 - 12.15 pm

St James Church Centre

Garden Party

Lyn and Dave's Garden, Temple Road

Saturday, 19th July 10 – 12 pm

St James Patronal Day

Friday, 25th July 2014.

Supper at 6 pm

Evensong at 7 pm

Parish Day of Vision, Purpose and Unity

Saturday, 6th September 2014, 9.30 – 2 pm

Ride 'n Stride 10am – 6 pm

Open Doors

Saturday, 13th September 2014

At both churches

Farewell to Bishop John

Saturday, 20th September 2014 10 am – 5 pm

See more details of programme in

The Chronicle

KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves

Dance Based Keep Fit Class with Barbara

St Francis of Assisi Church

Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford OX3 7JP

Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.45 am

Improve your energy levels, muscle tone and flexibility
Come and enjoy the friendly, fun atmosphere

This class most suited to active 50+

Please bring a mat/towel

First class ½ price

**Dance Based Fitness Class, Lean Machine, Cowley –
Tuesdays 7.30-8.45pm**

For further details of both classes phone Barbara
07752626642

KFA Fitness through movement, dance and exercise

www.keepfit.org.uk

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

The June meeting was very well attended and was enjoyed by members. The speaker talked about her experiences on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Australia and New Zealand. She spoke of how she had for many years admired the exploration of Captain Cook and how she had wanted to see at first-hand some of the fascinating places he had found "down under".

The week before, our branch had celebrated the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer. Each year members from all the countries around the world pray for the dioceses with which they are linked, for the personnel who head up the movement in those countries and hear about the main challenges and issues which

they deal with year by year. Our African sisters tell us about health problems such as HIV/AIDS and immunisation projects. Another of their major initiatives is tackling illiteracy especially amongst women. This is important because it is useless to send leafleted information to these ladies who cannot read. Also literacy and numeracy means that they can help their menfolk to run their (mainly agricultural) businesses thus helping with the economy of their areas.

After a quiet prayerful session in St James Church the afternoon ended in the Church Centre with a strawberries-and-cream tea.

FRIENDS OF LYE VALLEY

Thank you all who came at the end of June and helped rake away the reeds which choke the wonderful orchids and other rare plants growing in the fens. We saw Marsh Helleborines just coming into flower and common spotted orchid which you can see quite clearly from the boardwalk alongside the fen, as well as the tiny pink Bog Pimpernel and the heart-shaped leaves of Grass of Parnassus. Judy also showed us rare hoverflies and soldier beetles - as well as an energetic green/black slug-eating beetle - which gave her quite a nip. You can find details of the flora and fauna on our website:

<http://www.headington.org.uk/lyevalley/about/index.html>

Two dates for the diary:

Come along to see some of the rare flora and fauna we work so hard to protect and encourage, led by our local experts, Dr Judy Webb and Steve Wooliams, on Sunday, 13th July 2014. Circular walk for FoLV members to see the spectacular rare wildflowers of the North Fen SSSI area and look at other important wildlife in the whole valley. Booking needed. Contact tel 01865 377487 for more details and to book.

The AGM will be held at 6.55pm in the St Aldates Room of the Town Hall on Thursday 7 August.

Come along to hear the news, get updates on the rare species and planning issues - and enjoy an illustrated talk by our Chair, Dr Judy Webb, whose knowledge of and care for this site is unsurpassed. There's no charge for this event - so bring your friends and neighbours if they might be interested.

SAINT OF THE MONTH St Barnabas

This St Augustine is not the Roman saint who brought the Christian message to England but a man born in Algeria in 354 AD who is famed for his bishopric of a place in North Africa called Hippo. However that is not all he was beatified for as we shall see.

He was the son of a pagan father and a Christian mother. Although he was brought up a Christian he was not baptized. He was sent to Carthage to become a lawyer but gave up these studies to concentrate on reading philosophy instead. He was particularly drawn to the works of Plato and later to Manichaeism. This was a form of Christianity founded in Persia in the third century by a man named Manes. It was based on the supposed primeval conflict between light and darkness. There was the duality between Christian and pagan elements at its heart and it caused religious struggles for those who studied it.

It caused Augustine to reject his Christian faith for nine years. He lived with a mistress who bore him a son. He moved first to Rome and then to Milan where he taught rhetoric. Whilst in Milan he came under the influence of St Ambrose and found himself losing interest in the philosophy of Manichaeism and drawn back to the Christian message. After a long personal conflict he was converted and baptized in 386. He returned to Africa and, with a band of friends, established a monastic life. This was an open order where study and conversation flourished. Four years later he became Bishop of Hippo, a position he retained until the end of his life forty years later.

He was an extraordinary personality, highly intelligent, widely educated, and with, what is described as, an ardent temperament. His written works are what mark him out as an outstanding Christian philosopher. Apart from the works of St Paul he is one of the great early theological interpreters of the gospel. His sermons on the Gospel and Epistle of St John are still studied today as is the *De Civitate Dei*. This work is the first Christian philosophical study in history dealing with opposition between the Church and "the world". His thoughts on Creation, Grace, the Sacraments and the Church are much admired though his belief in Predestination is criticized.

His teaching on sex and marriage was rejected for generations because he wrote that the family, the sacrament and fidelity lay in the companionship and intercourse enjoyed in marriage. He also wrote in depth on charity, the Holy Trinity and the psalms. He was an active bishop, busy with the administration of church property, care of the poor, preaching, and writing and, because of his understanding of legal matters, acting as a judge in civil and ecclesiastical cases. All the time he lived within the community, fully aware of everyday matters. He died just as the Roman Empire was disintegrating, leaving behind a great legacy of theological works still valued by scholars. King Alfred the Great based much of his Christian thought on the works of St Augustine and had his writings, *Soliloquies*, translated into Old English in the ninth century.

28th August is the feast of St Augustine of Hippo.

Graveyard Project

The project of recording all the memorial stones has proved fascinating. Many of the inscriptions on the old graves were revealed. One of the oldest is the large chest tomb with a tree growing through it, near to the church south wall. This is Arthur ARDEN dated 1617 well before parish registers were being kept. We feared that removing the tree would cause the tomb to collapse, so best left alone.

One of the stones well known to parishioners is the stone on the edge of the path leading to the church. A scull head with one green glass eye and apparently unreadable but "Here lieth the body of Edward Groom he died March ye 2 1686 aged 70 years. An(n) Groom his wife died March ye 6 aged 70 years 1691".

A broken ledger stone at the end of the church dedicated to James and Sarah TREDWELL had an inscription on the end panel, the only problem being that the inscription was well below ground but we managed to dig down and revealed this verse:

Forgive, blest shade, the tributary tear,
that mourns thy absence from a world like
this;
forgive that wish that would have kept thee
here,
and stayed thy progress to the seats of bliss.
no more confined to grovelling scenes of
night
no more a tenant pent in mortal clay;
now should we rather hail thy glorious flight
and trace thy journey to the realms of day.

Sheila Tree/Erma Clarke



St James Café
St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

The last Saturday of each month

26th July

For more information and the
booking of tables contact
Vicky Hall on
07901895925

Come along for a tea or coffee and a
slice of homemade cake - then do a
little shopping on the stalls

M J Holden Plumbing & Heating

- Bathroom Installation and Refurbishment
- All Plumbing Repairs
- Leaks and Bursts
- Outside Taps
- Radiators
- Blockages
- Ball Valves and Overflows
- Pumps and Valves
- Property Maintenance
- All Trades Covered

No job too small – Fully Insured – Free Estimates

Telephone: 07584 190069

Email: mike_holden69@hotmail.co.uk

5th Cowley Guides

The Guides have now finished working on the Guides World Traveller badge. For the last part of the badge the girls met at Sainsbury's in the retail park to buy the ingredients for an international packed lunch and then walked back to the hall to make it and eat it.

We have been completing some fun badges set by the 1st Usk Guides. The badges are based on cows and pigs etc. We have so far done the Moo Challenge and just finished the Oink challenge. The Usk guides have managed to raise £2000.00 for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. This has helped girls in the following countries: Kiribati, Tonga, Pakistan, St. Lucia, Benin, Swaziland, Argentina,

Taiwan and India. Guides from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, USA and Germany have also enjoyed completing the challenges.

We hope to have a small summer camp with 1st Blackbird Leys Guides in August.

The Guides have almost completed the Big Brownie Birthday badge, which has included going to visit the Brownies that meet at St Francis and running a selection of Guide activities for the Brownies to enjoy. The Guides had an evening at Jubilee House with 1st Blackbird Leys Guides and Brownies where the girls enjoyed team games, going on an assault course and finishing with a campfire.

Cynthia Retter

Most of our generation were HOME SCHOOLED in many ways/cont

11. My mother taught me about WEATHER

“This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it.”

12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY

“If I told you once, I’ve told you a million times. Don’t exaggerate!”

13. My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE

“I BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS WORLD, AND I CAN TAKE YOU OUT ...”

14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

“Stop acting like your father!”

RECIPES

We have decided not to put any recipes into the Chronicle this month – but please remember it is the time to eat Strawberries and Cream and enjoy a glass or two of Pimms. So enjoy a month without cooking but eat well!!



Rosanne interviews Sonia Gill

Hands up all those readers who knew that we have a famous film star who worships at one of our churches! No? I guessed as much. Nor did I until I had a most interesting conversation with Rev. Richard Chand a few weeks ago which led me to this month's interview. Let me explain.

Sonia, a very beautiful Indian girl, is a famous Bollywood star who has just finished filming her fourth big production. Not only that but she has other claims to fame which I will tell you about later.

Sonia is a local girl who has lived all her life just off The Oval at Rose Hill with her parents, two older sisters and an elder brother. Like all the children in her street she ventured into the big world at the age of three when she joined Rose Hill School's nursery department. She then progressed into the foundation stage of the primary department where she stayed until she reached eleven. She was happy at school, liked her teachers very much and obviously received a good grounding in her education as you will see from her further studies. She did not, though, like her PE lessons because she confessed she was a chubby

child (you'd never believe it if you saw the slim, elegant young woman she is now). After four years at Donnington Middle School it was time to move on.

At Cheney School she did very well. She told me that there was a group of about twenty girls, cousins and former primary friends who all went around together encouraging each other and sharing teenage gossip. It made life good. Her strong subjects were the sciences which she puts down to a particularly talented teacher. After gaining a clutch of GCSE passes at sixteen she moved to the Oxford College of Further Education to take her A-levels. Her subjects were biology, chemistry and law. Her older sister had been accepted at the University of Buckingham to study law so it seemed logical to Sonia, as they are the closest of friends, that she should do the same. At Buckingham University they lived in hall "In the middle of nowhere" (in Chalfont incidentally) and worked hard. Both girls gained good degrees and mum, Mrs Gill, has delightful photos of her two, gowned and mortar-boarded girls on her sitting-room wall.

While she was at university one of her fellow students

suggested that Sonia might like to augment her fees by doing some modelling work. He introduced her to his agency and she was snapped up. At weekends in the big hotels in London fashion shows, mainly wedding clothes, are staged so off she went to dress as an Indian bride in beautiful saris, jewellery and make up. Her first modelling venue was at the Wardorf Astoria and she had her first glimpse of a life of glamour. Her photo appeared regularly in the magazine "Asiana" which is directed towards Asian families in the UK. Her fees were good and she loved it.

She was spotted, as they say, early on in her modelling work by a film company who thought that she was the person they were seeking to star in a film, a romantic thriller, to be staged in New York. At first Sonia turned it down. She maintained that she had no experience of acting and could not speak Hindi (at home the family speaks Punjabi). The casting director insisted that these two difficulties could be overcome with plenty of rehearsals so when her final exams were over she and sister Monica flew off to America much encouraged by their mum. The film was great fun,

though hard work and long hours. Much of the filming was shot in Sylvester Stallone's house. On their brief periods of free time the girls were shown around New York and New Jersey by an uncle who lives there. That was five years ago.

Now fully qualified in her law studies Sonia applied to Oxford City Council for a job. She began work in their conveyancing office where she still works when she returns to Oxford. You see that first film led to more offers from Bollywood and in order to make her next one she needed to move to India. She has her own flat in Bombay, with her own cook and her own cleaner and even a chauffeur to take her to her modelling and filming venues. She appears regularly in magazines but, most famously, her face is the face of India's favourite soap. There it is on all the hoardings. Three more films have followed, her latest was released this month. I asked about the "red carpet" appearance. Oh, no, she could not manage that as she was due to return to the little semi-detached home in Rose Hill to see the family.

She told me that coming home for six months of the year keeps her feet on the ground. She loves going to her job at the council, worshipping with her family and friends at St James on Sunday afternoons and meeting up with

former school friends. One of her special pleasures is playing with her two nieces, her eldest sister's little girls.

So what about boyfriends, what about the handsome, glamorous young men she stars with in these romantic films? I loved her answer. "They have got no substance" said this bright young lady, "They might look gorgeous but they do not have much up here" (pointing to her forehead) "and besides I could not consider marrying anyone who is not a Christian".

She then went on to tell me how seriously she takes her faith. She worships twice a week in Bombay's beautiful cathedral, regularly lighting a candle in prayer for her beloved family back home. Sonia seems to me a level-headed young lady despite all the fun and glamour that surrounds her life. Back home she helps with household chores, keeps fit by practising yoga and plays basketball regularly in a league (a sport she learnt at Cheney).

She has had all kinds of suggestions about her future including, of course, more filming and modelling. She might go into property development in Cyprus. She really is at a big decision time but she looked me straight in the eye and told me she will go whichever way God wants to take her. What a girl!

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Very quiet, shy, a good student – I listened to my teachers. I always lived in the shadow of my sister but now I have totally changed.

Have you any never-to-be-forgotten memories of your childhood?

My mum used to go to work, then both my sisters and I would get at her make-up and her saris and jewellery and dress up to Bollywood tunes and dance all around the house.

Has there been anyone who has had a strong influence on you?

My mother is the first I thought of – then my sister Monica – and then, in India, Varsha, a friend who is just like a mother to me.

Has your faith always been with you?

Yes. Even in India I make sure I go to church twice a week. The biggest church in Bombay is called Mount Mary and it is beautiful. Lots of celebrities go there and light a candle for my family back home.

Do you have a treasured possession?

My bible. I like to read it before I go to sleep.

What is your opinion of present day society?

These days everyone is too involved in technology. There is

not enough one-to-one like there used to be.

If you could change something in a big way what would it be?

I think I would stop people being so selfish – that way there would be more love in the world.

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

I really, really enjoy filming. It gives you the chance to be free and expressive.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Lots of massages, lots of yoga, I really enjoy dancing, I still play basketball for a team at my sister's church, The Bedford Christian Centre.

What plans do you have for the future?

I actually leave it all to God whichever way he wants to take me.

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

The funeral service for our beloved Maggie Giles was one of the main events at our church this month. Her death has been particularly hard on the St Francis congregation – a detailed tribute has been made elsewhere in The Chronicle. We shall not forget this lovely little person and her influence on our lives.

One of the good things that is happening – the painting of the outside of St Francis Church has

started so the appearance of the building will be much improved.

Our church continues with its all-embracing programme for young and old and works away at mission to our community around us.

John Shreeve



OPEN DOORS

The Oxford Open Doors weekend this year will be held on 13th and 14th September, and we have registered both churches to be open on Saturday, 13th (to coincide with the Diocesan Ride 'n Stride on Saturday, 13th). As in September 2013 we, in the parish, are taking part. How often do you hear "I often pass the church and find it locked - I'd love to see inside" from people we meet. Well, now is their chance. Please tell friends about the Open Door. We shall be there to welcome visitors from 10 am right through the day. As ever there will be light refreshments on hand to add to the pleasure of their visit.

ST FRANCIS JUNGLE FUN DAY

Rosanne asked me to collect some quotes from the children while I was there. Here are some of their reactions:

There was sooo much to do, I couldn't choose
Everyone was really happy and friendly
I love holding snakes and lizards
The bouncy castle was just The Best
Thank you for it all
I won't forget the dragon
I've had a fantastic time – when's the next one?
That was my first ever flea circus – they were amazingly clever

Lesley Williams

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JULY AND AUGUST

On 1st July 1916 the first Battle of the Somme began. This was the bloodiest battle of modern times. Over one million people died. The battle continued until 8th November.

In 1980 Bjorn Borg won the Wimbledon men's title for the fifth time in a row, the first man ever to do so. And on the same date in 1987 Martina Navratilova won the women's title for the sixth time in a row, again another first ever.

Henry VIII married his sixth and final wife, Catherine Parr at Hampton Court on 12th July 1543. She had been married twice before and after Henry's death she married again thus making her England's most married queen!

On 17th July 1981 the longest cable suspension bridge, the Humber Bridge was opened by the Queen. It stretches 1.3 miles.

25th July 1907 was the date when Sir Robert Baden-Powell set up his first experimental Scout camp on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. He was testing the feasibility of the Scout movement for boys.

Slavery was abolished in all British dominions on 1st August 1834.

In 1296 on 8th August the stone of destiny, a lump of rock on which all Scottish kings had been crowned was brought to England. The stone had been kept at Scone but it is still part of the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey. All our kings and queens have been crowned on it since Edward II.

The Walt Disney film "Bambi" was given its premiere showing at New York's Radio City Music Hall on 13th August 1942.

Queen Elizabeth II gave birth to her only daughter, Princess Anne on 15th August 1950.

East German soldiers began building a five-foot high concrete wall through the middle of Berlin, dividing the city in two, on 20th August 1961.

ST JAMES PATRONAL DAY

This year 25th July - St James Day - falls on a Friday and we are celebrating in the evening with a service of Evensong at 7 pm. Needless to say this will be preceded with a supper – we never celebrate without a feast! The supper will be in the Church Centre from 6 pm. The church committee thought this would give those people who will be getting home after a working day time to make it.

In honour of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

In this year of commemoration it seems only right to pay a tribute to the servicemen who were stationed at the Cowley Barracks. These were the premises of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry garrison. In 1914 they were some of the first soldiers sent to fight in the fields of Flanders. Their first major campaign on 9th November was at Nonne Bosschen, a wood in Belgium. It was the beginning of the Battle of Ypres. Sadly they were unable to outflank the enemy, lost five men and suffered 27 casualties. They received re-enforcements from the Northumberland Regiment and the Connaught Rangers. After the breakdown of manoeuvres, static (trench) warfare became the order of the day.

Another notable battle was fought at Givenchy in September 1915 but the two most desperate and bloody battles in which they were engaged were those on the Somme which dragged on from July to November 1916 and Passchendale, again for a further five months in 1917. Six battalions of our brave men took part in each of these.

As we are fully aware conditions were unspeakable and prompted their company officer, Graham H Greenwell, to write these words in a letter home in August 1916:

“I shall never look on warfare either as fine or sporting again. It reduces men to shivering beasts: there is not a man who can stand shell-fire of the modern kind without getting the blues”.

Of course he was talking about shell shock which we now know as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Our present-day servicemen are encouraged to talk about it and receive treatment but a hundred years ago they were expected to get over it and forget it. Sadly many never did



“At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them”. How many times on Armistice Sunday we hear those words and repeat, “We will remember them”. Well this year we will. Printed below are the names of the men of Cowley who were killed in the First World War. Those names are carved on the memorial screen in St James Church, all seventy two of them – seventy two men from the small villages of Cowley – the number is staggering. It is very fitting that on the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of “the war to end all wars” we pay this small tribute to their sacrifice.

Captain F H Kirkpatrick, OBLI
 Captain C O Logan, OBLI
 Captain R R M Brooke, OBLI
 Captain C F K Carfrae, OBLI
 Captain Jack Manley, RFC
 2ND Lieutenant J S C Marshall, OBLI

Albert Alder	James Conolly	Oliver King
Leslie Allen	Herbert Cook	William Knapp
Sidney Allen	Reginald Doubleday	John E C Martin
Cyril Atkins	George Druce	Frank McClusky
Alfred Attwood	Frederick Edgington	William Merritt
Alfred Banealor	William Edgington	William Mitchell
Arthur Baker	Claude George	Harold Morris
James Baker	Charles Gibbons	Thomas Neighbour
Ronald Baughan	Edward Goodgame	Harry Owen
Reginald Belcher	Gabriel Greenfield	Harold Peake
John Biggs	Arthur Grey	Frank Phipps
Fredrick Borough	Frederick Hall	Leonard Reynolds
Alfred Bradbury	William Harris	Herbert Rogers
George Brandish	Frederick Harvey	William Rogers
Fredrick Brockall	William Hazell	Leonard Smith
Arthur Brown	Cecil Hilsdon	Alfred States
Sidney Brown	Edward Hudson	William Trinder
William Brown	Aubrey Johnson	Frederick Viner
Frank Butler	Jesse Jones	Harry Wallin
Jeremiah Currell	Wilfred King	Hubert Weston
Alfred Carter	Joseph Kent	Henry Winter
William Cobb	Jack King	James Young

The memorial to the fallen of the 1914-18 war is an oak screen across the entrance to St Luke’s Chapel at the east end of the north aisle, St James Church

TELEGRAMS

A fine little lad was young Jimmy.
I loved him like one of my own.
He lived in the cottage just over the hedge,
His mum the best friend I've known.

We brought up our children together
And Jimmy would make up such games
With an old clapped-out pram he'd be Dobbin
And my Sally held on to the "reins".

Bundles of sticks he would bring us
For kindling, whenever he could,
Mushrooms from the fields in his pocket
And wild flowers that grew by the wood.

He knew where to find the best berries
And crab apples too, down the lane.
He grew up so fast, at just fourteen years
He left school and a farmhand became

My Sally and he would go walking.
His mum smiled to see them together.
By the gate they'd stand, hand-in-hand,
Not caring about wind or weather.

When Bill, my dear husband, was called
To serve in the army at war
Jim went to town on his own
Said, "I'm sixteen, you need me for sure".

We cried on each other's shoulders
That sad, sad, sorrowful day
When I begged Bill, "Please watch out for Jim",
As our loved ones marched bravely away.

And how can I grieve with my dear friend,
(Poor Sally is quite overcome)
When the telegram boy came last week
To tell of the loss of her son?

For this morning the boy came again,
Brought a telegram up to my door
To tell me dear Bill had been killed out in
France.
My cry is, "Oh dear God, what for?"

Personal Memories

Recently we asked readers to send in to The Chronicle commemorations of those in their families who have served in the Great War. We are most grateful to these people who responded.

Gerald Ives tells us of his late father, Walter Clement Ives, who was taken prisoner. He was in prison camps in Italy and Germany:

"Dad was in the Royal Artillery during World War 1 and was captured in Italy. He was later moved to a POW camp in Germany. He described the Italians as a reluctant fighting force and were better suited to singing and making (and eating) pasta. After being moved to a German POW

camp he described one of the tasks he had to perform. In the evening, under armed guard, he was forced to light street lamps by means of a long pole. At the end of this was a means of ignition. If the guard thought he wasn't moving fast enough he would put the butt of his rifle into Dad's back, shouting "Schnell, English swine".

Valerie Goodall passed on to us some interesting details of her great uncle's service and loss of life. She writes about an article found in the magazine "The History of Britain at War". She tells us that when her grandmother, Margaret Browning, who lived in Cowley, died, amongst her treasures they found a photo, a Christmas

card and a badge. These were mementoes of her brother, Arthur Wright, who served on HMS Natal in 1915. Copies of the badge and the Christmas card were printed in the magazine along with the sad story of how many sailors were lost. The ship on which her great uncle died was sunk in the Cromarty Firth in Scotland in December 1915 in unusual circumstances. As a result of a tragic accident in the boiler room an explosion caused the ship to go down with the loss of about 400 men.

The following come from Enid Thomas, Pat Sansom, Sally Hemsworth, Margaret Randall, Grace Richards and Rosanne Butler:

My father, John Worrell, and his brother, Robert, got drunk. The next morning, in 1914, they found themselves in the army. In France he worked with the horses, and spent a lot of time in the trenches. He was also gassed but he did come back. He lived until he was 61 years old.

Enid Thomas

My Grandfather, Regimental Sergeant Major Charles William Done was stationed in Ireland with the 'Kings Own' something or other regiment during the beginning of the First World War and was refereeing a football match among the ranks on a weekend which was exercise and part of their training as they were soon going off to war.

A young soldier player fell into the fast flowing River Liffy while trying to retrieve a ball. He couldn't swim and was swiftly being carried downstream. My Grandfather sprinted along the bank until he caught up with him and dived in and tried to hold on to him. He made three attempts but the soldier was struggling and the water quickly carried him away, my Grandfather was very weak but made his way to the river bank. The soldier unfortunately was found drowned about half a mile down the river. My grandfather was awarded the Royal Humane Society medal for endeavouring to save the life of another human

being.

He later lost a leg at Ypres and was shot in the head and left for dead, put into a body bag with all the other dead. Luckily for him an Orderly spotted a leg movement and got him to a Field Hospital and he was brought home. He had a deep crease from front to back of his skull and wore a trilby hat for the rest of his life.

He was very strict and frightened the living day lights out of me but WOW! What a man."

Pat Sansom

One of my uncles was killed in action on the 12 December 1917, aged 24 years. I have tried to find out information about his army career, but unfortunately this has not been possible as his records were destroyed in a fire of army records.

However, I know that he was a Lance Corporal in the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). This has always been a mystery to me as the family originated from Nottinghamshire and were living in Blackburn at the time of the war. Just a few weeks ago I was discussing this with Stephen Barker, Heritage Advisor from the new museum at Woodstock "Soldiers of Oxfordshire" who had, funnily enough been doing detailed work on the Lancashire regiments. He said that many men were carried away with the fervour of enrolling and many would sign up on, say, a day trip to the seaside. His instant response in relation to my uncle was "I suspect he liked the kilt"! We have a lovely photograph of the time when two of the brothers are in their army uniform, but Uncle Harry was in full Black Watch uniform, kilt and all, so perhaps this was the reason!

Uncle Harry has no grave but he is remembered in two places. Edinburgh Castle on the Black Watch Memorial (which I visited when I was about ten – the first year my dad had a car after the Second World War), and on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium (a place I have on my "must do" list). We also have a copy of a silk memorial strip which has

this lovely poem:

Just when his hopes were brightest
Just when his thoughts were best,
He was called from this world of sorrow
To that home of eternal rest.

Never a day but his name is spoken.
Never a day but he is in our thoughts;
A link from our family chain is broken,
He has gone from our home, but not from
our hearts."

Sally Hemsworth

"My father Frederick Jeffery, joined the army when only 17 years old. His regiment was the "Glorious Gloucesters". He saw active service on The Somme and Ypres. He was wounded in the leg and was gassed (mustard gas). Luckily he survived and became a coal miner in Yorkshire where he married and had four children.

In the 2nd World War he was a useful member of the Home Guard (he knew how to use a rifle).

He came originally from Oxford where some of his family still lived."

Margaret Randall

All my life I have loved talking to people and as a little girl I was particularly drawn to older folk who lived in the village where I grew up. They always seemed to have such fascinating stories to tell and as a child I would simply soak them up. I am so glad I did as one elderly gentleman I knew had been a First World War Veteran. I want to tell you his story.

It is hard to describe him as a gentleman because he was one of the roughest diamonds you could ever meet. His name was Horace. He spoke with the thickest Oxfordshire accent you can imagine and he was the village carrier, taking milk, sugar beet, potatoes and other produce from the farms to the railway station in Eynsham and returning with a lorry load of coal. He picked up any necessary prescriptions from the pharmacy too. Horace walked with a pronounced limp and on

some days you had to be careful how you approached him. He could snap a person's head off though he was never sharp with me, calling me "Rosie, my duckie". His wife, the village post-mistress, would tell people that Horace was having a bad day on account of his "tin leg".

When he was a very young man he had been conscripted into the army and sent to fight in the battlefields of France. He hated it but like all his mates did as he was ordered and when the time came he was sent "over the top" into enemy fire. Horace was hit with a shell and knocked senseless. His platoon (I guess thinking his body lying in the mud was past saving) charged on leaving him alone.

He told me that he came to and all was very quiet. He was alone in no-man's-land. One side of his body felt numb and it was then that he realised that he had lost most of a leg. It was very dark but as he groped around he found his leg and thought that if he could get back to the medical post it might be sewn back on.

So that brave young man crawled through the dark carrying his leg. He had no idea how long it took but he did make it back to the medical post. Of course they could not save his leg and he ended up in a military hospital where a clumsy metal leg was fitted. In those days prosthetic limbs were nothing like those available now so Horace returned to the village with a severe limp.

The end of the story has an ironic twist though. In order to receive his army pension, awarded to disabled servicemen, he was required to go to London every two years to be interviewed by a military tribunal in order to ascertain that he was still disabled. So Horace would put on his best (weddings and funerals) suit and an unfamiliar collar and tie and take the train to London to prove to the "big brass" that he had been unable to grow a new right leg. He found it so funny as only a true war hero would.

Rosanne Butler

Grace Richards has some treasured papers on her uncle - here is a selection of them:

EXTRACT OF AN ENTRY IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS REGISTERS
under the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Special Provisions) Act 1957.

REFUGEE WARRANT OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN of the Royal Garrison Artillery KILLED in Action or who have DIED whilst on Service Abroad in the WAR of 1914

BATT. NO.	RANK	NAME IN FULL (Surname First)	AGE (if not Declared)	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH (Name - Country if Place Not Known)	CAUSE OF DEATH
190372	Gunner	Edmiston, Allan	25	Scotland	06.9.18	B.E.F. France	Killed in Action

Given at the General Register Office, New Register House, Edinburgh, in pursuance of sections 18 and 41 of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1957.

under the Seal of the said Office, this 2nd day of June 2006

ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE NOTES OVERLEAF

2404



**In Memory of
Gunner A EDMISTON**

**190372, 252nd Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery
who died age 25
on 06 September 1918
Gunner EDMISTON, Son of Margaret and the late
Gavin Edmiston. Born at Linwood, Paisley. A joiner.**

**Remembered with honour
VIS-EN-ARTOIS BRITISH CEMETERY, HAUCOURT**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

He little thought when leaving home,
That he would ne'er return;
But now he lies in a soldier's grave
And we are left to mourn.

We do not forget him, nor do we intend;
We think of him daily, and will to the end;
We miss him and mourn him in sorrow unseen,
And dwell on the memories of days that have been.

**In Loving Memory
OF OUR DEAR SON,
Gunner Allan Edmiston, R.G.A.,
KILLED IN ACTION
On Friday, 6th September, 1918,
AGED 25 YEARS.**

LARK PLACE,
LINWOOD.

Book of the Month

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks

Even if you have seen the film version of this very special book and know the story, the quality of the written word by Sebastian Faulks is very high and makes this a novel that everyone should read.

It begins four years before the outbreak of World War 1 and leads you into an intimate understanding of the characters. The scenes of war in all its horror are brilliantly written and though, at times, quite hard to take, are so sympathetically described that one is led onwards into the heart of the story.

The events culminate in the Armistice of 1918 with all its sadness and relief. Then we look forward to a new generation.

To understand the whole horrendous misery of trench warfare, and the human side of it all this is the book that spells it out quite exceptionally.

Rosanne Butler

Cowley at the turn of the Twentieth Century

(from Nan Davies' memoirs)

Things went on as before for years. A lot of property was owned by different Colleges and lots of men employed by them in Term as college porters, etc., but in vacation they had to find other work as there was no help if there wasn't any work, you had to either take what job you were offered or manage as best you could. There was the Church Army Press, which employed lots of men and some women too, that is still there today and was always known as a good place to work. I never heard of a strike there.

One day, it must have been about 1912 – 1913 some men came looking around the Military College and after a lot of investigation they came to stay, one of them being Mr William Morris. They started in a very small way at first in the rather wide passage of the little Chapel, well before long they had two or three tin sheds on the road – they looked like tin to me – and began to make the Old Bullnose cars and things seemed to go well. They kept taking on a few more men, there were a lot of men in need of work and they would go on the off chance of being taken on.

On August 4th 1914 which was a flower show day on the Military College field, a thing we village people looked forward to so much as there was a big tent for the flowers, another for refreshments and of course another for the beer, some side shows, racing etc. Then at night a dance was held on the floor of the college up three flights of stone stairs. Around 6 pm Mr Asquith suddenly announced over the loud speaker that he regretted to tell us war

was declared between England and Germany. We still held the dance but it cast a gloom over us all naturally, although we could not foresee how our world would be turned upside down.

In no time at all men were disappearing, lots of them volunteering and then being called up for training to go to France. Cowley Barracks was one of the biggest depots. You would see crowds of men walking there. They were not coddled in those days. It was all walking for them as earnings were only eight shillings a week. Their wives had about one pound according to how many children. It really was a terrible time and before long the factory sheds were full of women and girls making munitions, night and day shifts. The women had to wear dark brown overalls and tight fitting caps and believe me they had to work for their money. Some of the forewomen were really strict. The news was heart breaking and the fighting men did not get much to eat sometimes so we sent them food parcels, which very often they did not receive.

Butter, meat, margarine and sugar was rationed and the bread was a horrid dark brown. We would stand in Cowley Road in the gutter for the margarine queue at Lipton's an hour and sometimes longer, only to be told, sold out but maybe some more tomorrow. Can the generation of today ever imagine what it was like and then the bombs that brought such destruction to our England. I only mention this in passing so that some can realise what life can be like in war time, and avoid another if possible.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH – THE POPPY

In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders field

It seems appropriate in this, our memorial issue, to feature the beautiful wild red poppy.

It has come to symbolise the remembrance of lost service-men and women in our present age but its origins go right back to the Ancient Egyptians. In their days it was an emblem of blood and new life. Archaeologist Flinders Petrie found, when discovering tomb artefacts dating back to 2500 BC, an urn containing grains of barley and mixed in with them were wild poppy seeds. As we know their seeds can be scattered freely so when the harvests were gathered the fallen seeds would settle in the earth and spring up the following year thus making the symbol of new life very logical. Newly turned earth is what the poppy needs for seeds to germinate and they have been known to lie dormant in some places for as long as 400 years before springing to life. That is why lots of poppies can be seen along the wide verges of newly laid motorways. Also, of course, in 1919, once peace had come to the fields of Belgium and Northern France, the empty battlefields were covered in blankets of red poppies.



The seeds probably came to Britain in the seed corn of the Neolithic settlers. In medieval times they were confused with the opium poppy as an inducer of drowsiness and sleep. Red poppies do not do this nor are they the cause of headaches, another myth from early times.

Ironically the flower was almost eradicated from Britain during the second world war. The need to grow food at that time was intense and powerful agricultural herbicides were introduced in order to increase yield.

Only on verges were they mainly to be found, because those meadows which lay undisturbed would not have had poppies amongst their wild flowers.

It has a beauty all its own and should not be considered a weed. Ruskin wrote lyrically about his appreciation of them:

“We usually think of the poppy as a coarse flower, but it is the most transparent and delicate of all the blossoms of the field. The rest – nearly all of them – depend on the texture of their surfaces for colour.

But the poppy is painted glass, it never glows so brightly as when the sun shines through it. Wherever it is seen – against the light or with the light – always, it is a flame, and warms the wind like a blown ruby Gather a green poppy bud, just when it shows the scarlet line at its side, break it open and unpack the poppy. The whole flower is there complete in size and colour – the stamens full-grown but all packed so closely that the fine silk of the petals is crushed into millions of shapeless wrinkles. When the flower opens it seems a deliverance from torture”.

HEROISM AND FAITH IN THE TRENCHES

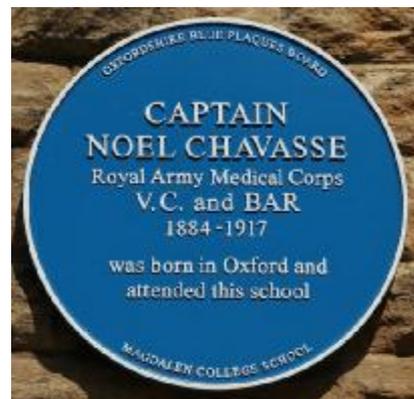
Those of you who read "The Door" church newspaper would have seen the short article about 'Woodbine Willie', the famous Army Padre in the trenches in World War I. His selfless devotion to the soldiers he encountered became legendary and he is rightly remembered as a fine Christian in his time.

However I would like to draw your attention to another outstanding Christian of the First World War, especially interesting for us because of his Oxford roots. He was born in the vicarage at St Peter Le Bailey in Oxford in 1884 along with his twin brother Christopher, his own name was Noel Chavasse. After studying at Oxford University, where he lodged for a while in Divinity Road (off the Cowley Road) he obtained a senior post in the medical world in Liverpool. His father was later to become the C of E Bishop of Liverpool. When war broke out he enlisted in a Liverpool Scottish regiment and became a Captain in the medical branch. With his seniority in the medical world he could easily have served behind the lines in

some capacity. However he chose to face the rigours and dangers of the front lines, and it was in this way that he became one of only three others who was awarded a double VC for bravery. He was also awarded the Military Cross. What an incredible honour and achievement. We can be sure that his firm Christian faith helped to sustain him during those terrible years.

His brother also served as a chaplain in the Army during these years. Both of them lost their lives and are buried in the Military Cemetery in Flanders. More recently in 2005 a plaque was unveiled to him on Magdalen College School. A true son of Oxford who served with distinction and is rightly remembered with honour.

John Shreeve



THE REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

It is not only the trauma of the actual wars themselves but the aftermath that causes so much grief and sorrow. Our country was never the same after the First World War. Not only had we lost the cream of our youth, almost a whole generation, but the social structure had changed as well. There was a good deal of anger about how the war had been conducted, and the appalling number of lives lost. Hardly a family was left that was not affected, and people wanted proper recognition of the sacrifices made.

The tomb of the Unknown Warrior was inaugurated in Westminster Abbey, and the Cenotaph set up. The Imperial War Graves Commission was formed to look after the military cemeteries overseas. Yet people still wanted something personal, something named, and something local. So permission was granted for War Memorials to be set up in towns and villages throughout the land. The names of all those who had been killed in ac-

tion were engraved in stone for all to see so that people who mourned loved ones could see them honoured and visit their local memorials and lay wreaths or flowers. On Remembrance Day there was often a service held and a military band and a procession, which was a comfort to the families involved. If you take the trouble to read the names inscribed you will often see that several members of the same family were recorded. What a blow to the parents and relations! Those of you who have seen the film 'Saving Private Ryan' might be interested to know that there was an identical situation during the First World War. King George V was appealed to and agreed to intervene on behalf of the family, with the result that the soldier was pulled out of the front line, and survived the war. Good things can occasionally happen.

John Shreeve

RIDE AND STRIDE 2014

The twenty-ninth sponsored Ride and Stride will be held on 13th September 2014 from 10:00am - 6:00pm and once again St James and St Francis will be participating in this very worthy event. Since the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1964 several million pounds has been given in grants to churches of many denominations within Oxfordshire and our Parish has been fortunate enough to receive several grants over the years.

The first Sponsored St/Ride in Oxfordshire was held in 1986 as just a bicycle ride and the event has grown considerably since then. Last year the St/Ride raised over £128,000. During the last 3 years we have raised:

St James

2011:	£393.50
2012:	£520.00
2013:	£226.00
Total:	£1,139.50 (we received £569.75)

St Francis

2011:	£206.00
2012:	£ 81.00
2013:	£126.00
Total:	£413.00 (we received £206.50)

The Combined total received from Ride and Stride since 2011 is £776.25.

I now have the sponsor forms for anyone wishing to take part from St James so please let me know if you need one - John Shreeve will have them for St Francis. We also need help on the day so if you can spare an hour or two it would be great if you could be a welcomer, if this is not possible please think about sponsoring someone and we can let you know the names of those taking part.

Hopefully the weather will be much better than last year but if not we will make the most of the day. Perhaps we could think about saying a few prayers during the next few months for those who will be taking part, those helping on the day and for good weather!

June Smith

BINGO

We all mourn the passing of Cyril and will miss him terribly. As a tribute to him the present members, working as a team, have agreed to keep the Bingo running. However, for it to survive it does need more members. Have you a couple of hours on Friday afternoons? It starts at 2 pm and finishes at 4 pm. If you need help with transport the "Dial a Ride" bus already brings some members and it would be no trouble to arrange for it to pick up a few more.

We do hope you will do all you can to keep this activity going – please join us.

May Morgan

Reflecting on their Primary School Years.....

Our Y6s at St Francis are currently preparing for the exciting transition to secondary school. As part of this we asked them to reflect back over their time in primary school and identify the memories that will stay with them. Here is a selection for your entertainment.....

I will always remember the time when I was 4 at the summer fete when I spent about £3.00 on the "spin the wheel" game. When I had my 7th go, I still couldn't get a prize so when I lost I took a handful of prizes and made a run for it in the hall and hid. Because I was under a table that had that had the cakes on, every now and again, I would take a cake and a biscuit and eat them.

My funniest memory was when I was running in sports day, and we were running backwards and I couldn't see where I was going and I ended in the audience!

My first day at school in reception is a day that I will never forget. I drew the most beautiful picture of my Nan and was really proud of it-so was my teacher so she gave me recognition. I stood up at assembly and my teacher said "Iainetta has drawn a lovey picture of a pig!" I burst out saying that's not a pig, that my Nan. The whole hall filled with laughter.

My most embarrassing moment was in nursery when I was three years old, I really needed the toilet but I couldn't go because if I stood up it would all come out. Lightning was outside and the teacher thought I was scared so she put me on her lap and it all came out. When she stood up, she was all wet!

My most embarrassing moment was when we went on a residential trip in Year 6. We went canoeing, I got completely soaked and then realised I had forgotten my trousers, so I had to run back to my dormitory in my pink boxers!

I will always remember my time on the residential to Kilvrough in Year 6. Knowing that everybody in my room was scared of spiders, I had packed a squishy black spider in my bag. So the next day I fake shouted and threw the spider onto Grace. Everyone then started screaming but we did laugh at the end.

I will always remember when I was in Year 3 taking part in a cross-country competition. I ran through two bushes, lost my shoe and ran into a muddy puddle.

I will always remember having toast with Amber. I was spreading my butter very neatly and making no mess, Amber on the other hand, splatted the jam on her toast and got it all over her and the table! I still have a photo.

SHARING THE JOURNEY

Sharing the Journey, a service to celebrate 20 years of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Church of England took place in Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, 7th June and what a joyous occasion it was. The cathedral was packed with lady "Revs" (and a few men) and the Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Venerable Karen Gorham, presided. The choir led the singing magnificently. They were all female voices and their Kyrie, Sanctus and Agnus Dei were as sweetly sung as you'd ever heard.

The Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkins preached. Her theme was based mainly on the premise that fear of the unknown closes us in like a box. Jesus sets us free from the box and encourages us to move into the future without fear. The power of the Holy Spirit will protect us - inspirational!

Two dancers from the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance performed. They danced to two pieces, one from Bach's St John Passion and one to Caccini's setting of Ave Maria.

Our own Amanda Bloor read the Gospel looking magnificent in her gold chasuble as did the rest of the altar party in theirs. The bishops (including a lady from one of our link African diocese), of course, wore their splendid copes all adding to the very impressive occasion. The whole service

was beautifully arranged, as you might expect, and a lovely way to celebrate two decades of the priesthood of women in our country.

Following the service in Christ Church Cathedral, the focus for celebration moved to the Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street, for a panel discussion chaired by Canon Dr Judith Maltby. The speakers were Preb. Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Reverend Caroline Symcox and token male, the Bishop of Buckingham.

All, of course, were supporters of the power of women's ordained ministry. They referred to the theology behind women's ministry in general and ordination in particular. The key message was that God gifts *people*, not male & female, gay and straight, old and young – just *people*. Equality is a matter of justice, not of opinion.

But there is still a mountain to climb – we are only at base camp on the issue. The hierarchy of the church – as in the world of politics and business - is still generally all male: that patriarchy has to be dismantled and women's authority accepted and respected by society. As there was no opposition, it was a very happy, positive forum, with the conclusion that the first woman bishop of the Church of England may well be the next Bishop of Oxford!

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Rosanne Butler, Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the September edition:

Wednesday 27 August 2014

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers.

REPORT FROM THE DEANERY SYNOD MEETING, 21 MAY 2014

The Deanery Synod met at the St James Church Centre on 21st May 2014. Representatives of all the churches, except one, came to the meeting. In addition, Tim Stead, the new Area Dean was introduced to the meeting. The following points were made:

There was reflection on the recent Clergy Conference attended by Tim Stead which sounded like a great opportunity to think, to pray and worship in many different ways and on many different subjects.

Tim Stead outlined the main areas of his interests:

The maintenance of the Deanery Synod,

Discussion and promotion of spiritual practices (a term he preferred as that seemed more inviting considering the current spiritual and religious climate these days)

An interest in meditation, especially Mindfulness meditation and its many applications.

Community (being inclusive) and the concepts of Justice and Peace.

Our relationship with the environment.

There were then three short presentations from Amanda Bloor, Elaine Bardwell and Margreet Armitstead, which covered:

The issues of planning the clergy conference, the

influence of faith in the world, and the celebration of 20 years of Women's Priestly ministry.

The programmes of worship in the Clergy Conference.

Reinforcement of a message moving away from thinking about numbers and more towards thinking about God and the mission of the Church, why we are here and also the many ways that we can essentially do God's work on Earth. There was mention of a phase "Post Secular" which seemed to be a reference to the regrowth of spiritual thought in society. Another key phrase was "Salvation is solidarity" suggesting that as a unified community we should stick together and support our Brothers and Sisters in need.

There was a moment of contemplation about what we already do for the poor (the Food Bank) and what else we can be doing. In addition, there was mention of our Churches finding a social justice co-ordinator/s to help with action on things such as poverty.

A discussion on the proposed ideas for the Church to disinvest in fossil fuels will be on the 7th of October this year, and there has already been a "Fossil Free Rally" which was held at the Radcliffe Camera on the 31st May.

SEASHELLS

We would like to thank all who contributed their Sainsbury's "Active Kids" vouchers this year. We received almost 7,000 and have been able to exchange them for some very nice equipment for both Seashells and Little Stars. Also we have very a nice giant crossword game for use on Parish open days.

The invitation for anyone from the congregation to call in for a coffee and a friendly chat is still always open. We would be delighted to see you.

Once again, thank you all for your contributions.

May Morgan and the Team



HOW IS YOUR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE?

Each month we are going to challenge our readers to identify a Cowley landmark.

Our roving photographer, Les Hemsworth, will choose a local view to get you thinking.

Answer next month.



*Last month's answer:
Oxford Steam Plough
Co, Rymers Lane corner*

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

2 March 2014	Elizabeth Alexandra Isis Flemming
5 April 2014	Chloe Ann Clark
5 April 2014	Scarlett Lily Clark
4 May 2014	Faye Aleah Massey
4 May 2014	Bella Rose Massey

Weddings:

1 February 2014	Jason Dudley and Sarah Maudsley
29 March 2014	Peter Kneve and Angela Musson
17 May 2014	Steven Flynn and Hayley Howells
28 June 2014	Lewis O'Neil and Sarah Mayo

Funerals:

3 December 2013	Rita Helen Giles
1 January 2014	Jacqueline Porter
2 January 2014	Phyllis Mary Matterson
22 January 2014	Anthony Arthur John Joliffe
31 January 2014	Suzanne Withell
3 February 2014	Sydney Fenton
5 February 2014	Sylvia Guy
27 February 2014	Robert Henry Allen
15 March 2014	Jayden James Nash
13 March 2014	Stanley Giles
2 April 2014	Vera Joyce Hughes
6 June 2014	Margaret Giles
23 June 2014	David Hayden Cooper

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2014

Christmas cards and calendars are now in the shops so it is time for active planning to be underway for the 'Let's light up Christmas!' festival in December. Our theme will be 'Angels' but we have not found a snappy title yet. We are however seeking commitment from schools, churches and groups to be part of the event, both with decorated trees, crafts and performances. If you know any groups who can be approached to join us, please pass on contact details -
Lesley Williams,
07982 439 828,
orctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk.

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZAID Friday 27 June

6 teams competed for the glorious chocolate prize, enjoyed the nibbles and learned and laughed such a lot!

The event raised £165.40 towards our £2000 annual Christian Aid target, so there is just £426 to go. And the next idea is..... have you got a suggestion?

Two gas company employees were making house calls. The younger of the two was teasing the older man about his age and fitness. He challenged him to a race around the block. The older man took him on and with that they began to run. They were neck and neck all the way but as they reached the last corner they were amazed to see a mature lady running alongside them. "What are you doing?" they panted. "Well", she replied, "you were checking my gas boiler, just now and when I saw you running away, I thought I'd better run too!"

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The Bible is full of amazing characters. In the last few months, the Children of St James Children's Church have been meeting some of them. We have had everything from a small-scale re-enactment of Noah and the flood to Moses and his staff to Joshua and Jericho complete with hand-made trumpets. As the children understand more of these characters' lives, we hope they will have come to know something of the Living God who works to save the people he has created and whom he loves. In the autumn, we will be carrying on an exciting programme with the children. We look forward to what God will do in their lives and in the lives of others from the Parish whom we hope

will join in. If you could help for one hour on one Sunday a month providing some support for those leading the teaching, we would love to hear from you. Our thanks to the current team of Will and Catherine Hartley, Jill (and Ed!) Ling, Vicky Hall and Claire Hordern.

Josh Hordern

Lets keep it simple ...

**You got a problem with your computer?
We are here to sort it !**

With over 23000 satisfied customers, running for over ten years, no wonder we are largest independent computer support company for home users and small / medium businesses. Our technicians love their job and enjoy a challenge, so what are you waiting for !

call us now on

01865 451177



154 Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2EB
shop@computerassist.ca

News from St Christopher's CE Primary

The summer terms are well underway and the building programme is progressing well. We hope to have the new classroom block and the kitchen ready for use in the New Year.

Our Year 6 children completed their Statutory Assessments in May and are visiting their Secondary schools in readiness for moving on in September. All the children in Year 5 and 6 are practising for their end of year production which this year is called 'Dream On' (A musical show based on a Midsummer Night's Dream).

Many classes are going out and about as the weather has decided to cheer up recently. Year 4 spent a day at Sulgrave Manor, experiencing

Tudor activities and Years 5 and 6 have been into Oxford twice recently – firstly to see a famous author, Liz Pichon and secondly to visit Oxford Castle in connection with their 'Behind Bars' topic work. In the next couple of weeks, Year 2 are going to spend time at Snakes and Ladders, an indoor activity/play centre in Abingdon and the Foundation Stage will be looking at different farm animals when a selection arrive in our school and spend the day with them.

We are all looking forward to the rest of this summer's activities.

Alison Holden
Headteacher

MAGGIE GILES

28.04.1927 – 11.05.2014.

It was with great sadness we said goodbye to Maggie on 6th June, with a service at St Francis Church, of Remembrance and Celebration for her life. Everyone smiled as we sang "Friends and Neighbours" and the words fitted Maggie to a T.

She was a friend to everyone and touched so many lives. Through life's ups and downs her friendship and sense of fun shone through. She had great sadness when her daughter Sheila died and then losing Stan her husband in February was a devastating blow. When in January this year she was diagnosed with terminal cancer, her family, Rob, Ann and Michael, and her beloved grandchildren were a tower of strength. Her faith and love of her church together with support from Skye helped her enormously.

Maggie finally found peace in the caring hands of Sobell House where her loving family and her many friends visited her. There they found her relaxed, comfortable and cheerful, always "thanking them for coming". She shared her life with many circles of friends and it has been a privilege to know she was my friend and I hers for many years.

God Bless Maggie
Rest in Peace
Sheila Tree

God in my life

The times God has been with me? Too many to mention! Here are two “biggies” though.

26th September 2010 I was regularly driving up from Portsmouth to sing with my choir in Westminster on a Sunday. I drove home on this particular day and I was so totally STUPID! I reached over to the passenger seat and the steering just went from underneath me. I thought “Oh s**t, this is it”, and came round the other side of a bush, upside down! Three lots of lovely and very brave people came to my rescue and the police, fire and ambulance crews wanted my lottery numbers for that week as I was so lucky. I had serious bruising down my right side and tiny glass cuts on my face and head. I argued with God about why I had to go through it and kept telling everyone I know who drives to be careful getting sweets, etc. while moving. Now though I see my own foolish arrogance – I am indestructible (NOT!) But not only did He not want me then. He has had so much else I needed to be around for.

The other “biggie” has to be my grandson, Jasper. Briefly we discovered at a routine 32 week check that not only was Chrissie, my daughter, in labour but that the baby’s arrival was imminent! I think she was told four times (may be five) “you’ll have your baby in the next

24 hours”. Frustrating for anyone, but seriously stressful for an 18-year-old with Asperger’s Syndrome. Jasper finally arrived at 35 weeks at a good weight and looked huge compared to the other babies in the neo-natal intensive care until. He was in hospital for twelve days and during that time we made at least two lifetime friends (four including babies!). Just how many times should we be thanking God for Jasper’s safe arrival? And thank Him for putting up with him some Sundays in Church? He is a very loved and blessed “pickle”.

Chrissie nearly did not apply to Oxford University. Applications for Oxbridge had to be in by 13th October. Jasper was due on 23rd but his arrival in September meant that I had to give extra help while she sorted it out. I totally believe that we are meant to be in a certain place and that God has more plans for me than I even want to know about yet. I believe I have been brought to Cowley by God and specifically to St James. During the long years bringing up my two children, both with Asperger’s Syndrome, on my own, with help from my mum so that I could go to choir I used to let the hymns speak to me. There is one that tells us not to judge others “with a zeal not His own.”

Ros Ware

COWLEY WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

We meet on 3rd Wednesday of each month at St James Church Centre, 2 – 4.30 pm, and have the following planned:

- 18th June: Annual Garden Party
- 16th July: Movers and Shakers by Jane Frinney
- 17th September: Lord Mayor of Oxford

We are always looking for new members. Come along and see what we do. You will be made very welcome.

Jean Chilton

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from The Cowley Chronicle, June 1964.

Cassocks, carpet and altar silver

At St James half of the legacy of the late Mrs Edith Cox was used to provide new cassocks for the choir and the other half is being used to buy a carpet to run up the centre of the church. Mrs Cox, who deeply loved St James Church, would no doubt be very pleased with the use her money has been put to.

The following walk was set out in this Cowley Chronicle – walk it and see how much or how little has changed:

PHYSIC GARDEN IS A TONIC!

In July last year I wrote about some of the interesting things to be seen in Oxford, and have been asked to describe a few more places, some of which are not usually visited by large parties conducted by guides. This time I propose to start with the Botanic Gardens, one of the most relaxing places I know. If you feel the stresses and strains of modern life, I recommend a rest in these gardens. It is as good as a tonic. As you know there is a large stone arch at the entrance. On the wall to the right of this arch is an inscription which informs us that "This stone marks the place of the Jewish cemetery until 1920." There is also an inscription in Hebrew, which I am unable to translate.

Earl of Danby

In the year 1621 the Earl of Danby founded a Physic Garden and it is through him that we have this beautiful relaxing place. It is still to a great extent a physic garden and here you will find all the plants used in medicine. Over the arch you will see a bust of the Earl of Danby.

I have only time to mention one plant and that is the Glastonbury thorn. You will remember the story of Joseph of Arimathea planting his staff at Glastonbury where it grew. This is a similar plant.

As we go through the turnstile, we walk towards the fountain, turn left, then first turn right and you will find it a few yards along the path on the

left. The greenhouses are open from 2 to 4 and in one of them you will see tall rushes which are the same as those in which Moses was hidden when a baby.

From the gardens we go through the small gate in the wall to Rose Lane and so to Christ Church meadows. I hope you will be well dressed and behave yourself for you will find a notice at the entrance to the effect that persons in ragged clothes and of improper behaviour are not admitted.

City Wall

Turning right we walk beside what remains of part of the city wall. At the end we turn left and then right to the beautiful memorial gardens, then through the gates into St Aldates. Immediately opposite is Alice's shop. It is a small stone building with bowed windows and it dates from the 15th century. This is the shop described in "Through the Looking Glass" by Lewis Carroll. You will remember the sheep sitting behind the counter wearing large spectacles. Lewis Carroll and Alice knew this shop very well indeed as they lived in Christ Church.

Until the year 1300 St Aldates was known as Great Jewry and contained many Jewish homes. Their synagogue was just to the north of Tom Tower. An inscription with this information is on the Town Hall wall near the Library. By the days of Elizabeth I the name had changed to Fish Street.

Tom from Osney

Here we end our short but pleasant walk and as we stand beneath the tower the great bell Tom – named after Thomas a Becket – booms forth. We look down the street, and, near Alice's Shop, see Bishop King's Palace. Bishop King was the last Abbot of Osney and first Bishop of Oxford. Great Tom also came from Osney Abbey and his rich note has sounded over Oxford for 700 years.

J W E Sawyer.

Get out and have a look!

In the high summer months of July and August, it is great just to sit back and enjoy your garden. OK, there will be nagging thoughts of "I really need to trim that" or "those weeds won't disappear by themselves" but it is great to just look at the colour and growth that is happening all around. On the allotment, there will be crops to pick and you have to keep on top of that. Runner beans, French beans, courgettes, beetroot and peas all need picking while young. You don't want anything stringy or woody on your plate.

It's great to go and get ideas or just enjoy the hard work that has gone into gardens that are open for the National Gardens Scheme. Get a copy of the "Yellow Book" for Oxfordshire and go and visit one or two. All have an entry charge which goes to charity. On Sunday 13th of July, Green and Gorgeous – The Cutting Garden is open. I went a couple of years ago. It is near the Thames at Little Stoke near Wallingford. It is 6 acres of flowers grown by a florist to be used in bouquets and displays. It is just great to see rows of beautiful flowers, many scented, with some under poly tunnels, that are grown here and used here. There are floristry displays and, of course, tea and cakes! The latter are what my other half comes for, when he does accompany me, and doesn't have a refereeing appointment.

On the same day, several gardens are open in Headington, several more in Old Boar's Hill and Chastleton Glebe, Prue Leith's garden near Moreton-in-Marsh, is open. Such a lot of goodies and you can't visit them all, sadly.

On Sunday 27th July, Trinity College or Merton College Fellow's garden are more local visits or

there are the 7 gardens open in Thame. If you want to go further, Broughton Castle and Broughton Grange, said to be an "impressive 25 acres" including a large terraced walled garden and "outstanding herbaceous planting" are available for you to wander around in.

Of course, Blenheim is available to visit any day as is Waterperry Garden with its famous herbaceous border. Don't forget the Botanic Garden here in Oxford. The new central Merton beds will be coming to their peak in late summer. These were sown in 2012 with an eye on the possible future for ornamental gardens when we might be experiencing the lack of rainfall due to global warming. Prairie planting at its best!

So get out and have a look. I assure you that you will come back with ideas for your own little piece of Oxfordshire!

Joan Coleman



**Say Farewell to Bishop John
at the Diocese of Oxford's
Grand Day Out!
Saturday 20th September 2014: 10.00 – 17.00
Oxford City Centre**

Come to Oxford to bid farewell to Bishop John and enjoy a Grand Day Out! We don't often get together – but on Saturday 20 September we're inviting our whole diocesan family to gather in the centre of Oxford, to give thanks for Bishop John's ministry among us, and to think about our onward journey. There'll be prayer and worship, a feast of different activities and the chance to join in a massive picnic on Christ Church Meadow. We'll end with a huge open-air Eucharist. Everyone is invited; young, old, lay, ordained, families, single people, life-long Anglicans and people new to church. Everyone is welcome!

Timetable for the Day

- 10.00 Opening worship on Christ Church meadow (30 mins)
- 11.00 A host of workshops, speakers and activities in venues around the city centre - Pilgrimage, Messy Fiesta for families, geo-caching, spirituality zone, 'Living the Difference' café, events for people with learning difficulties, mini-pilgrimage and much, much more. Let loose your imagination, exploring faith through prayer, the creative art, contemporary culture, social enterprise, climate change, the natural world and forgiveness.

All events at the Grand Day Out are free. But you do need to book to attend sessions. To do so, please go to www.oxford.anglican.org/granddayout

- 12.30pm Bring-your-own picnic on Christ Church Meadow
- 2pm Workshops, speakers and activities around the city
- 3.30pm Farewell Eucharist for Bishop John on Christ Church Meadow

The programme for the day is being added to all the time. For more information and to register for further information and updates please go to www.oxford.anglican.org/granddayout. If you'd like to know more, please do speak to staff at Diocesan Church House organising the day on 01865 208277.

Worried that she had not seen the next-door neighbour for some days a mother asked her son to pop in next door “to see how old Mrs Champion is”. The boy returned. “Is she alright?” asked his mother. “Yes, she’s fine”, he said “but she’s a bit upset with you”. “Why, whatever for?” “She said it’s none of your business how old she is!”

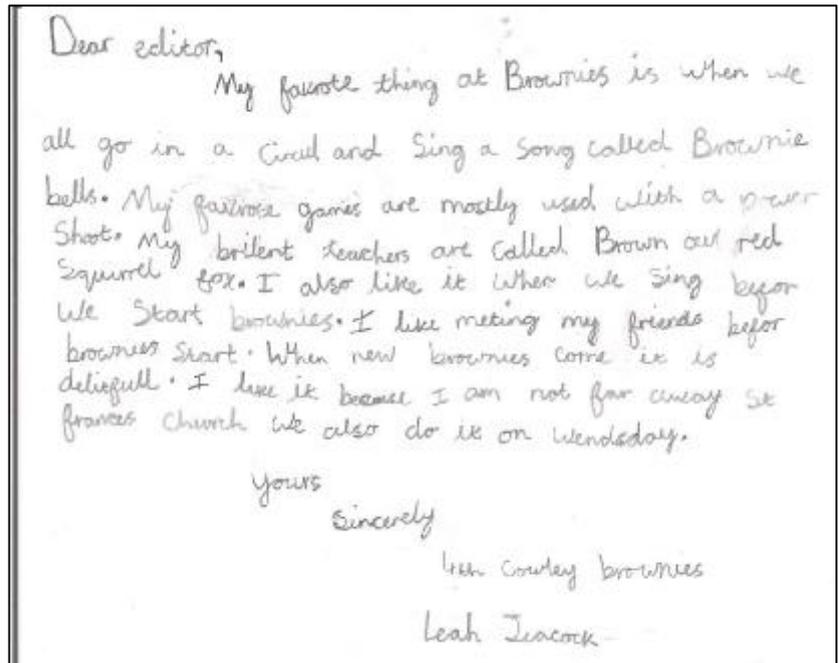
4th Cowley Brownies celebrate the Brownies' 100th Birthday

This year 4th Cowley Brownies have been tackling the "Big Brownie Birthday Challenge", a specially created programme of activities from Brownie packs of the last 100 years. For example, Brownies had a taste of the war era black-outs at an electricity-free meeting. Over the next few weeks as part of the festivities we have two sleep-overs planned with other Oxford Brownie packs, one enjoying the great outdoors, the other in a space-station- a nod to the Brownies of the future perhaps!

As well as enjoying the Big Brownie Birthday celebrations, Brownies have achieved their Toymaker, Cook and Agility badges with fun activities ranging from aerobics to puppet-making. The Brownies are currently busy working towards their Friend to the Animals badge and have been learning about different species and conservation.

Whatever the Brownies are doing, it is clear that for many of them, the most fun is making brilliant friends, playing games and singing songs every week. [We asked the Brownies to write a letter to the Cowley Chronicle to update you all on what they have been doing, please see a letter written by Leah.]

4th Cowley Brownies meets at St Francis Church on Wednesdays.



CHRISTMAS BOXES

There is nothing like making an early start on the Christmas boxes for under-privileged youngsters in third world countries and, incredibly, Joyce Titchell tells me that she already has! Since she took on this totally selfless task Joyce has become increasingly immobile but assures me that she can still cover shoe boxes and pack them appropriately as she has always done.

She has already covered 15 boxes in pretty paper and has as many again to do. She is also, already, collecting small items to pack in them. She has asked me to let you know in good time that she will accept any contributions you would like to make. You can send them to St Francis church whenever you choose. You know the kind of things to send – little toys (particularly cuddly ones, hand-knitted are very welcome), small "matchbox" cars, packs of cards, pretty hair slides, combs, hankies, toiletry items, packs of crayons, notepads, pens, pencils etc. Joyce cannot get out to shop for things this year so she is relying on us to help.

Let's give her all the support we can.

NEWS FROM THE BELL TOWER

This time of year is always particularly busy for bell ringers. With the improvement in the weather, we like to get out and about and visit lots of towers before our numbers are reduced by the start of the holiday season. It is also the start of the "wedding season", and bell ringers are always much in demand. Hugh, our branch ringing master has been busy arranging events for almost every weekend, and also some evenings, so we have not been short of opportunities to practice.

We were all saddened by the death of Roy Jones. He was tower captain at Marston, and had been a great support to us at Cowley, arranging extra Saturday practices, and bringing along lots of experienced ringers to help us improve. He had been ringing for about seventy years, starting when he was eight years old, so there was not much he did not know on the subject. Two days before he died, he was ringing with us at Cowley, and I feel honoured to have known him, albeit for such a short time. Some tower practices the following week were rung half muffled as a sign of respect. This involves tying a leather "cap" over one side of the clapper, which effectively makes the ringing sound with an echo. We realised that we have no muffles at Cowley, something we hope to rectify in the near future.

On a happier note, we have been trying to make the most of all the opportunities we can. Jenny was invited to ring for a wedding at Iffley, which she was really pleased about, as it is always nice to be

able to help out at a tower that has provided so much support to us. Some of us have visited Chilton, Garsington, Stanton St John, Lane End and Turville. These outings are for a mixture of abilities, allowing us to practice things which we could not do alone at Cowley, but we can then take our new knowledge and skills back to help the rest of the band. We now regularly ring a method called plain hunt at our Cowley practice nights (although we are not yet quite ready to ring it on Sundays). This coming Saturday will be something of a milestone for us. It will be the first wedding we have rung for with all the ringers being from Cowley. Coinciding as it does with the final of the National 12 bell striking competition, which this year is being held in Oxford, it meant extra ringers would be quite difficult to come by.

As always, if anyone would like to come and find out more, please come along one Thursday evening between 7.30 and 9pm, or say hello on a Sunday morning when we ring from 9.30 – 10. Over the summer, some ringing may be cancelled with people being on holiday, but you can call me on 777486 to find out when we will be ringing.

Lindsay Powell

Shaun Guard TV AERIAL SERVICES

- **Poor Reception Solved** - Aerials repaired & supplied
- **TVs** - Hung on your wall for you. Also supplied & tuned
- **Extra TV Points** - For aerial and Sky (In HD!)
- **Sky TV** - Also Foreign Language TV

Call Oxford 01865 400141

A part of  OXFORD AERIALS

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Sung Eucharist
Every 3rd Sunday at 4.30pm (<i>in church</i>)	Church at the Centre
Every third Sunday	Sunday Lunch

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am	Parish Eucharist
---------	------------------

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St James
	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St Francis
	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St James
Thursday	8.30am	Morning Prayer— St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Skye Denno	1st Monday of month, 7.30pm at Skye's home
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve/ Skye Denno)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

Tuesday, 2—5pm
Wednesday, 10—1pm
Friday, 9—2pm

The Parish Office is currently staffed by
volunteers and members of the ministry
team.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680
Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378
Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Rector:

Revd Howard Thornton
Howard has Friday as his day off

Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno
Tel: 01865 434160 Mobile: 07720 768684
Email: skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Skye has Wednesday as her day off.

Associate Priest

Revd Richard Chand
01865 701948
Email: richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Non-stipendiary Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow
01865 461953
Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Dr Amanda Bloor
Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Gordon Hickson
Tel: 07713 688079

Revd Tony Beetham
Tel: 01865 770923
Email: tonybeetham1@supanet.com

Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532
John Shreeve Tel: 717987

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516
St Francis Church/St James Church:
through Parish Office

Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Rosanne Butler Tel: 453257
Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens,
May Morgan
Articles to be emailed to:
chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk