

Faith, Love & Hope in all circumstances

Although we are in now in the middle of our British summer and at this time having scorching temperatures, we have in fact passed the longest day which was the 21st of June. It was interesting to hear people say it is all downhill from now on. So before we get to the shorter, darker and colder days which I suppose will also come quickly, we should reflect as Christians in response to our environment, and what happens around us should not impact on us in our central Christian Faith.

Moreover, I was thinking that although things change around and about us in our environment we are called to be the same followers of Christ, believing that 'There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.' (Ephesians 4. 4-6).

So whatever and how much our zeal and effort to proclaim Christ's Kingdom in the world, factors such as longer or shorter days do not mean lacking in our Christian Faith which had a life changing impact on us because it is through faith that we receive God's love and hope.

Indeed, I believe we Christians have been given a mission, purpose and vision which is given to us individually as well as the corporate body of Christ. And so it is with hope we carry on the work of Christ's Kingdom amongst us and beyond us as he has called us to do. In Ephesians 4.16, St. Paul illustrates the Church as a 'body' which builds itself up in love.

Therefore whatever circumstances we find ourselves in our efforts, we should

not lack in any way to carry on building and extending God's Kingdom in Cowley. That's what we are trying to do in our own different ways in our Parish. In this long interregnum the Parish has worked well together to keep Christ's body working and growing. God in his own time will deliver to us the right Rector who is called to work in our Parish amongst us in the Body of Christ. Incidentally, we have a 'Day of Prayer' at St. James on Monday 13th July from 9 am – 6 pm for those who can come to pray for the interview process and the right candidate to be chosen for our Parish.

In the meantime we have been busy in the Parish fundraising for the good causes and the needs of the Parish. We have been busy with Plant Sales, Christian Aid, Flower Festivals, Fun Days, Quiz events and many other fundraising activities. It is worthwhile because we are doing it for Christ's body and those in his world who are in need. Some of the fundraising is to raise the money for the new St. James Vestry and for the new Kitchen at St. Francis. So as we persevere and make efforts to raise these amounts to get this work completed, God will deeply bless us as all as we help the Parish in these projects so that Christ's name is Glorified.

So in whatever circumstances we find ourselves at this time and in the future let us continue to be prayerful and active people of God who live out God's Kingdom in love and hope, in this our Cowley Community.

RICHARD

Chronicle

July/August
2015

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

One of the things we, as a parish, pride ourselves upon is the way we welcome newcomers into our churches. Imagine, then, the delight of the congregation of St James Church when Mr and Mrs Blackbird took up residence in the church porch. Within living memory it has never happened before. Despite the comings and goings involved in setting up the Flower, Arts and Crafts festival, even erecting a floral arch precariously close to her "front door", Mrs Blackbird has stuck tight to her eggs. At the time of writing she is bringing up her babies to be good children of the church.

Now, have you done it yet? I am referring to your Chronicle order for next year. May Morgan will accept all order slips and subs from the folk at St James and Norah will pass on to her all orders from St Francis. If you have friends who like The Chronicle and cannot get to church please remind them and help them to secure their next years' issues. May would like all orders in by the last week in August so please help her as soon as possible.

Do you remember and may be have fond memories of Cyril Room, who died earlier this year? Several people have mentioned that his passing was so sudden and quiet that he slipped away without due recognition. He was a very generous man and devotedly fond of children. Is there some kind of memorial to Cyril which we could dedicate in his name? I thought we might put on our thinking caps and suggest something suitable. May I ask our readers to offer suggestion and hopefully by the end of the year we will have established a fitting tribute to such a valued parishioner.

I hope you were as delighted as I was to receive excellent contributions to last month's Chronicle from some of our young people. From time-to-time we get a nice report from Janine about her Brownie experiences and then last month we had a beautifully written article from Sofia. She wrote about the trip to Southsea with clarity and

enthusiasm. And then we heard about the new classrooms at St Christopher's school from eight Year 3 pupils. Bearing in mind that these young people are about eight years old their handwriting (all joined up) was very clearly legible and the obvious pleasure they have in their new classrooms shone through. What a delight!

As this is our double-issue summer Chronicle we shall be meeting up again in September. If you have any interesting stories about your summer experiences do send them in. We do like to keep our magazine all about you and fresh ideas are always welcome. New contributors please write.

In the meantime the Chronicle team hope you have a wonderful summer with lots of warm, sunny days, not too much pollen for the hay-fever sufferers and time to relax in whichever way suits you best. A cool drink, a magazine and an afternoon on the sun lounger will do for me!

God bless our Vicar and all our readers.

Rosanne

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CHRISTIAN AID once a month for this Spring/Summer

March	OVER THE EDGE	£710, including Gift Aid
April	SUPER SOUP LUNCH	£120, plus Gift Aid
May	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK	£1,200, plus some Gift Aid
June	QUIZ AID	£100



So our 2015 Christian Aid total: £2,130 plus gift aid towards our £2,000 target – brilliant! We have no more fundraising events planned for 2015 – but you never know.....

QUIZ AID evening, Friday 26 June

Rosanne & Frank Butler kept order over the three highly competitive teams during 8 rounds of nail-biting suspense..... no, that's not quite accurate: everyone was of course very friendly and enjoyed the challenge of wracking brains for knowledge they knew was hidden there somewhere.

Congratulations to the winning team 'Cowley Codgers' – Alan and Margaret Martin, Marian Webster, Betty Mitchell, Betty Canterbury and Lesley Williams - with 66 points, triumphing over Clever Clogs with 59.5 and Brains of Britain with 49.5. Unfortunately, there was no prize – apart from the glory!

And the delight of a fun evening with nibbles, Pimms, raffle prizes and £100 raised for Christian Aid

Contact: Lesley Williams 779 562 lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com

News from Australia

Things for us are very exciting at the moment, both at home and at work. At work, we are on the brink of real changes that will really radically improve the University but are in their way a little daunting. They involve a major overhaul of our undergraduate degrees, significant research investments and some important work on institutional culture and organisational design. I am fully settled into Sydney for the foreseeable future as we get these changes bedded down.

At home, I am not sure where you are up to with our news. It has been a huge change for everyone with Jenny coming, but especially for her. At first it was not easy, but we are now doing really well and I am so grateful to God for bringing us together. You may have heard that Jenny is unexpectedly expecting (honeymoon baby and all that). We had the twenty week scan yesterday and the baby (a boy) is growing well and strong. Love to all in Cowley.

Michael (Spence)

MY EXPERIENCES AS A CATHEDRAL WELCOMER

I used to be a Cathedral Welcomer but I had to give it up when my sight failed. I was surprised how many visitors wanted to see the green door which featured in Alice in Wonderland. Adults and children came from all parts of the world - I was amazed. I showed them the green door and then drew their attention to the beautiful painting of Jonah under the vine in Nineveh after his shipwreck experience.

Una Dean

Film Club at the Centre

It is becoming apparent that though we do show the odd Hollywood romance, or musical, in our programme, many of our members really enjoy a true-blue British production. So it proved last month with "Educating Rita". The fine acting of Julie Walters and Michael Caine, portraying an unlikely but moving relationship, has certainly stood the test of time and was much appreciated.



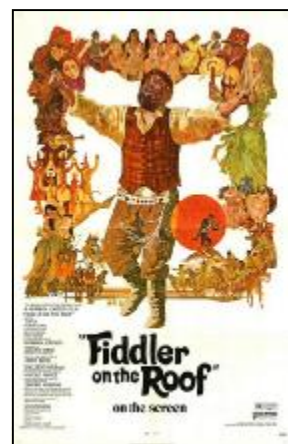
The July showing will be another contrast, though another British production, namely "The Grand Budapest Hotel". This film was only released on to the cinema circuits last year and I understand many of our members have not yet seen

it. It is a comedy with an element of art crime,

car chases and all sorts of fun. The date for this showing is July 10th. Jude Law is one of the stars.

In August we have planned to show "Fiddler on the Roof", a wonderful musical which stars Topol with his fine singing voice. This is in response to several requests from members whom we encourage to recommend their favourites. "Fiddler" is quite a long film but as it will be a long summer evening, 14th August, we hope members will not be put off by this.

Has anyone, by chance, got a DVD copy of "To Sir with Love"? One of our members is longing to have it included in our future programme and so far I have been unable to trace it. Please let me know if you would be prepared to lend it.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH, ST JAMES CHURCH

At the time of writing we are part way through the Summer term and Children's Church has continued with the previous term's theme of "The Life of Jesus", looking at major events in his earthly life. While much of last term covered events surrounding the Easter story, this term we are focussing more on Jesus' teaching and miracles.

We've seen the importance of loving our neighbour from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and from his parable about the Good Samaritan, the latter of which was convincingly re-enacted in church! The Parable of the Sower was also memorably taught by Jill and Caroline, as the children planted their own sunflower seeds in pots to take home with them. Let us pray for much sun over the Summer for them to grow!

Continuing the horticultural theme, we also made a large paper vine to remind us that Jesus is the Vine and the importance of staying connected to him through prayer. Our vine was decorated with leaves and grapes with the names of our friends and family who we prayed would come to know Jesus and join the vine that is also the Body of Christ - the Church. This session happily occurred on the weekend of Lesley's 70th birthday celebrations where her grand-godchildren were able to join us in Children's Church, all the way from Cambridge, reminding us that our wider church family does of course extend well beyond Cowley!

William Hartley

But would Gertrude like it?

We set off up the motorway on a warm, but breezy, June day under a blue sky. Our aim was to visit David Austin's Rose Gardens and nursery to buy some roses for the new garden border. Finally, after removal of shrubbery, a new fence and edging in place, I am now stocking the border! It was surprising how many plants I did have waiting in pots but I did want some roses, the big blousy English roses bred by Mr Austin.

We left the motorway and drove past Dudley. "What's that?" questioned my Other Half pointing at the ruins of Dudley castle. My memory took me to my first school trip in the mid-fifties to Dudley Zoo, shrieking with my classmates as we swayed to and fro riding on top of an elephant, as they did in zoos in those days and finding it very amusing to see a zoo keeper following with a shovel!

It was my first visit to the rose nursery and I was really surprised at how much further forward were the roses in Oxford. Most were fully in bloom but 100 miles north, in Shropshire (just! – nearly into my home county of Staffordshire) not all of the roses were in bloom. There are three different rose gardens displaying all kinds of roses including old varieties of ramblers and shrub roses and species roses. It was obvious that many visitors are expected as there is coach parking, a tea shop, a restaurant and gift shop as well as a large area devoted to roses for sale. I would recommend a visit. We came away with four different roses and they are now flowering away at the rear of the border where I will be able to train them along the fence.

One of the roses is a lovely rich pink named after Gertrude Jekyll the very distinguished garden designer, plantswoman, artist and writer. I hope she won't mind my mixing of colours and forms as I develop this part of our patch of England! One of the constant jobs during the summer is to dead head roses and other flowers, once they

have had their day, to allow more buds to form and burst.

There was a large area of soil left behind which I wanted to sow with grass seed and incorporate it into the lawn. I prepared the ground (by husband digging it) and then I trod it down and raked. Lots of small pieces of shelly limestone kept appearing as after all we do live on the top of a reef laid down under a Jurassic sea. These I took away and then I broadcast the seed. It is coming up now very patchily but protected from birds and cats with netting and the odd CD disc suspended by string to canes. It will be OK next year I suppose.

On the allotment, we have a superb row of peas having been protected after sowing with a strip of fleece and then continuing the protection with the fleece forming a tent attached to the chicken wire put up for the tendrils to cling to. I have now removed the tent and await the pods! My first row of peas, sown a month before, are nearly at the same stage after pigeons gorged on the leaves and held them back.

The runner beans are starting their upward spirals on the canes that, this year, I have set up crossing over half way up to form an X shape. This has been a great help to me as tying up canes at the near tops did not help my back. It also means that beans forming at the top will not be crowded together and be back-stretching to pick. Other crops are coming on well especially onions and potatoes. Soon I will be planting out leeks from their nursery bed and we have to keep on top of hoeing the weeds and mowing the paths. I do hope, though, that there will be time this summer to sit down with a book and just enjoy each day.

Happy Summer Days!

Joan Coleman

War Memories

.I was born in 1937 so all my childhood memories are from of the war.

John Shreeve spoke of utility furniture. I remember utility clothes - hard wearing but very plain with the least possible material and no frills or fancies.

I still have two pieces of utility furniture which my late husband bought as a young man. One is a rather handsome gentleman's fitted wardrobe. It is doing good service as a ladies' wardrobe plus dumping for all sorts of treasures on the shelves and the tie holder has scarves on it. The second piece is a rather large bookcase with a cupboard underneath. I keep bottles in the cupboard which I am sure was not the real intention when the piece was made.

All through my childhood I was told of the wonderful food we no longer had. I was excited when these foods began to come back. I was delighted with cream and ice cream, very pleased with custard cream biscuits but bitterly disappointed in cream crackers. I was not very struck on rice pudding - I thought it a come down. I was told a lot about the exotic fruits we were missing - oranges, bananas and the like. My father came home one day with a single banana and it was decided it should be shared between my two brothers and myself. My elder brother remembered bananas from before the war. I cried when my mother stripped off the lovely yellow and revealed a dirty looking grey substance. The thing was ceremoniously cut into three. I watched my brothers eating their portions with obvious enjoyment and was persuaded to try. I closed my eyes and took a tiny piece into my mouth. I found it to be rather nice and ate the rest. Every time I peel a banana I remember that first yellow banana and its loss of the beautiful colour

Una Dean

2nd Cowley Rainbows

We continue to have a good number of girls coming. We have been to Pets at Home to learn about some of the small mammals that they have in store. We got to stroke them and ask questions about them. We have also been working on our Global Roundabout badge where we learnt about different countries and cultures.

2nd Cowley Brownies

We continue to have good numbers. We had a circus workshop come to the hall to help us gain the Circus Performer badge. We tried juggling, riding the uni-cycles, tightrope walking and plate spinning among others. Some of us have been working on badges at home and have gained our swimmers, writers and stargazer badge.

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FLOWER OF THE MONTH—RHODODENDRON

The name rhododendron was originally applied to oleanders, and still includes azaleas, but in 1563 Andrea Cesalpino mentioned the *Rhododendron ponticum* in his book "De Plantis". It was introduced into Britain in the late seventeenth century. The name means "rose tree" (rhodon, in Greek, a rose, and dendron, a tree). *Ponticum* also comes from Greek legend, King Pontus was king of the sea.

In 400 BC Xenophon described Greek troops in retreat being poisoned by honey which came from the nectar of the *Rhododendron ponticum* after they raided local beehives. The Romans refused to believe that honey could be poisonous but just to be on the safe side, used the beeswax instead. In fact both rhododendron and mountain laurel do contain poisonous andromeda toxin in their nectar and bee keepers do have to be careful to track their bees. People have been sick from the honey.

After the seventeenth century the next immigrant rhododendrons arrived here from America. A botanist, John Bartram sent the species named *maximum* to England and the shrubs became very fashionable in the eighteenth century. By the time that Victoria came to the throne Joseph Hooker was helping to transform country estates with many species including some arriving from the Himalayas. He had all sorts of adventures on his plant hunting expeditions including being

captured by hostile Tibetans and even being attacked by leeches getting all over his body and even his hair.

One of the enthusiastic rhododendron collectors was Lionel Rothschild devoting his life and fortune to create a magical park full of them. Some people disliked their invasive nature and the landscape gardeners like those at Stourhead rejected them as they did not enhance the ambiance. Sometimes they can cause dark and gloomy habitats (such as in the Lost Gardens of Heligan). However if they are properly managed such as those in the University arboretum in Nuneham Courtenay they can create vistas of magical colour. At Wakehurst Place (now a branch of Kew) Lord Rothschild, Lord Aberconway and their gardener Gerald Loder processed round the *Rhododendron calophytum* when it first flowered. They walked round and round the bushes raising their hats in delight.



LITTLE STARS

The last Little Stars is 13th July for our Summer party and we return September the 7th.

OPEN PRAYER, ST FRANCIS

Open Prayer finishes on the 9th of July (on a Thursday 2-4 at St Francis) but returns on the 3rd September - a time for prayer.

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

Usually the monthly Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of
month from 2 – 4.30 pm but the July meeting is on
Wednesday, 29 July 2015 commencing at 2pm
Speaker: trine Lucy, talking on "My Crafty Life"

St James Church Centre

No meeting in August

Coffee, Cake and Communion

Monthly meeting on 3rd Tuesday of month
from 10.30 a.m.

With Rev Skye at the Vicarage, 27 Don Bosco Close
(Tel: 434160)

Film Club

Friday, 10 July 2015 - "The Grand Budapest Hotel"

St James Church Centre,

commencing at 6.30pm with coffee and cake

St James Café

Saturday, 25 July 2015 from 10 – 1 pm

St James Church Centre

Afternoon Teas with Lyn and Dave Lord

18 July 2015 from 3 – 5 pm

Temple Road

Parochial Church Council Meeting

Sunday, 19 July 2015, at 12 noon

St James Church Centre

St James Patronal Day Celebrations

Sunday, 26 July 2015 from 4 pm

Evensong at St James Church followed by Cream Teas
at St James Church Centre

Film Club

Friday, 14 August 2015 - "Fiddler on the Roof"

St James Church Centre,

commencing at 6.30pm with coffee and cake

St James Café

Saturday, 29 August 2015 from 10 – 1 pm

St James Church Centre

Friends of St James Old School – Saturday, 5 September

Committee meeting: 10.00 am (Ranklin Room)

Open meeting: 11.00 am (main hall)

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2015 - Plan- ning Meeting

Friday, 11 September 2015, 09.30 am in the Ranklin
Room, St James Church Centre

Open Doors/Ride 'n Stride

12th September 2015 – at St Francis and St James
Churches

**DO NOT FORGET – Tuesday Lunches at St James
Church Centre from 12.30 pm**

BUT NOTE: There will not be lunches on:
Tuesday 14th and 28th July
During August
Christmas week and New Year week

There will be a lunch on 1st September 2015, and
then back to usual after summer holidays

AN EVENING AT THE CATHEDRAL

Do you fancy a cultural evening for a treat?

Marking the 50th Anniversary of T S Elliot's death, the
Friends of Christ Church Cathedral are presenting a
complete reading of Elliot's Four Quartets read by
Robert Jackson, prior to a performance of
Beethoven's String Quartet No 15 Op 132 in
association with Oxford Philomusica.

The event begins at 8 pm on Thursday, 9 July. Tickets
at £20 each are available from Ticket Oxford at
www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford or on
[01865 305305](tel:01865305305).

Professor Peter McDonald will give a pre-
performance talk at 4.30 pm in the Frideswide Room,
Christ Church.



**ST JAMES
PATRONAL
FESTIVAL 2015**

**Please join us
to celebrate
St James Day**

Sunday 26 July

4 pm patronal celebration St James Church
5 pm strawberry tea St James Centre



St James Café

St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday

25th July & 29 August

For more information and to
book a table contact
**Vicky Hall on
07901 895 825**

Come along for a tea or coffee and a
slice of homemade cake
AND NOW bacon butties!
also : jams, cards, bric a brac,
books and more

This term we have been working towards a Baking Challenge Badge, set by the 1st Burley-in-Wharfedale Brownies. The guides have made posters on safety in the kitchen, understanding food hygiene, healthy menus as well as baking biscuits and scones and holding a cake sale. There was a big divisional bake off challenge and we had Ellie Birch-Watts from our unit enter this.

At the same time they have been working on the guide craft badge, using stencils, painting using potatoes, fingers and sponge cut into shapes to make patterns, porcelain painting on plain mugs, and weaving a mat. These badges should be finished by the end of the term.

Because we could not meet on Election Day at the hall, the meeting was held at Jubilee House, Beckley. It was a lovely evening after a wet week. The girls played games and we had a good sing around a camp fire.

We will be taking most of the unit to camp at Jubilee House, including guides from Blackbird Leys. Alison and Heather are running the camp together.

Cynthia Retter



ARE YOU INTERESTED?

From the sublime to the (faintly) ridiculous! A large number of good jam jars complete with lids has been donated to the Church Centre "for all you ladies who make jam and marmalade". Is anyone interested? Please let us know as the bag is heavy and tends to clutter up the place.

ROLE DESCRIPTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

CLEANING

At St James a small team of helpers – Chris Knevett, Ron Maguire and Pam Treadwell meet every other Wednesday from 9.30 am until 10.30 am to clean the church.

Chris and Pam vacuum, sweep, mop the floor in main church, and if there is time we dust furnishings which includes chancel and chapel. Ron cleans all the brass while this work is being undertaken.

Every so often Margaret Martin organises a spring clean when all are asked if they can help.

Chris Woodman and Margaret Weller help with the chancel and chapel when they can, but not on a Wednesday. Very often this is done when church flowers are being prepared, or when they have time.

There are so many other things to do and it would be good if we could have other help. Even if people cannot help on a Wednesday, they could come another morning or evening – a key can be made available. For more details please contact Chris Knevett or Margaret Martin.

At St Francis, a regular time is not fixed for cleaning, but this is undertaken at various times during the week by people such as Norah Shallow, Lyn Lord, Shirley Costar, Sheila Collett and Skye Denno. Spring cleaning is also arranged when members of the church are asked to participate.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

A Month in the Country by J L Carr
Penguin Books

The author after a long career in teaching, and a successful headmastership, turned to writing quite late in life with some distinction. This particular novel won the Guardian Fiction Prize and was short listed for a Booker Prize. The Spectator describes it as “unlike anything else in Modern English Literature”. I found it a very relaxing read, but also one that held my attention from beginning to end. The author is particularly good at describing the Yorkshire countryside and Yorkshire characters, a county in which he was born and bred.

The central character, Tom Birkin, a damaged survivor of the First World War and a broken marriage, finds refuge in the village church of Oxgodby. There he is to spend the summer uncovering a huge medieval wall painting. Immersed in the peace and beauty of the countryside and the unchanging rhythms of village life he experiences a sense of renewal, and a belief in the future. Now an old man Birkin looks back on that idyllic summer of 1920, remembering a vanished place of blissful calm, untouched by change, a precious moment he has carried with him throughout many years.

I have no hesitation in commending this wonderful novel which I have read several times and still find delight in.

John Shreeve

ST JAMES PATRONAL FESTIVAL

St James’ feast day is celebrated on 25th July which this year falls on a Saturday. So on Sunday, 26th, there will be a celebration of Evensong in the church at 4 pm.

Since we always celebrate with something good to eat there will be, following the service, a special cream team served in the Church Centre. There is no need to “book” for this – there is sure to be enough food to go round. So do come and mark our patronal festival with worship, prayer and fellowship (and, of course, a cuppa).

RECIPES

Let's Barbecue

Called "barbe à queue" by the French this method of cooking was originally described as a way of roasting whole animals or fowls in the open. Spitted from beard "barbe" – to tail "queue" - the animal was roasted in a closed or open pit over heated stones, coals or a wood fire.



It is said that this cooking method was introduced into America by French buccaneers in the seventeenth century. It is more likely though that it was already being used by the native Americans. It only reached Britain in the nineteen-fifties and has gained popularity ever since.

Barbecuing is popular when in good weather food is cooked out-of-doors on braziers, charcoal grills or all kinds of fancy appliances. Grilling, spit and skewer cooking are main methods of cooking. Barbecue is also a term now used to describe dishes in which meat, fish or fowl is marinated, then grilled or baked in an oven and basted or served with spicy, piquant sauce.

So here is a lovely barbecue sauce recipe:

- 1 oz butter
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 crushed clove of garlic
- ½ inch fresh ginger peeled and finely chopped
- 5 fl ozs water
- 14 ozs can of chopped tomatoes
- 1 large stalk of celery chopped
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 3 tablespoons tomato purée
- 1 ½ tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 large bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon salt
- A pinch of nutmeg

Melt the butter in a small saucepan over moderate heat. Add the onion, garlic and ginger and fry till the onion is soft and translucent. Add all the remaining ingredients and cook over low heat for 40 minutes. Strain the sauce and add more salt, or sugar, if required.

Bacon and Liver Rolls

(Something different for the barbecue)

- 10 fl ozs water
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 8 ozs chicken livers
- 2 hardboiled eggs
- 2 tablespoons chopped onion
- 2 teaspoons chopped parsley
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- ½ teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon brandy
- 10 slices of back bacon

In a medium-sized saucepan bring the water to the boil. Add salt and chicken livers. Boil for 7 minutes then drain them.

In a liquidizer blitz the eggs and chicken livers. Add onions, parsley, salt, pepper, butter, lemon juice and brandy. Mix well and chill in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.

Spread the mixture on to the bacon rashers and roll them up.

Soak 10 wooden skewers in cold water and then use them to secure the bacon rolls. Brush the rolls with cooking oil and cook on the barbecue for about 10 minutes turning them several times. Make sure the bacon is nice and crisp. Serve while still hot.

Now let's picnic! Here's an easy recipe for a lovely tea-time treat, just right for a picnic.

Almond Cookies

- 8 ozs ground almonds
- 8 ozs soft brown sugar
- White of 1 large egg
- 1 ½ teaspoons melted butter
- Cornflour

Preheat the oven to gas mark 3/70° C. On a flat baking sheet line it with non-stick baking paper.

Mix the ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Dip your hands into a little cornflour and mix the ingredients into a smooth paste. Shape it into little balls (about the size of a golf ball), then pat them flat. Keep using some cornflour on your hands to help. Put the little cookies on the baking sheet and bake for 20 – 25 minutes. Cool on a cooling rack.

These little cookies should be crisp on the outside and soft and chewy inside.

Rosanne interviews Jane Benyon

My first impression on meeting Jane was a lady who is a bundle of energy and enthusiasm and on getting into conversation with her I found I was not wrong. It is not a bit surprising that she made such an impression on Howard when she was hunting for a place to set up a branch of the Food Bank in our area that he offered the use of St Francis Church. It is still there and still going strong as I witnessed recently when I went to interview Jane. Remarkably, at first, she just wanted to tell me all about the vital work she and her fellow volunteers are doing week-on-week and needed to be persuaded to talk about herself. I had to remind her once or twice, "Jane, I want to know about you."

A farmer's daughter and a real country girl Jane was born in Scotland. She described her childhood as "idyllic" with the run of the farm, ponies to ride and a brother to share it all with. She has an elder sister but there is quite a gap in years between them. There was, also, a clutch of cousins around and, together with them, she and her brother were home schooled. The change came when she reached thirteen. At this point her brother was sent to Radley Public School so a private boarding school was found for her in Newbury. This meant that the two young people could make the long journey from Scotland

together. This entailed an over-night sleeper by train making home seem a very long way away. The school was situated in the town, a new environment for Jane and, she told me, she was pretty homesick. Because of the demands of running the farm her parents were only able to visit once a year, though she and her brother did travel home for the long summer holiday.

At school she described herself as "average at most things". She was only at Snelmore House for two years as she was then sent to Switzerland to a school in Lausanne from where she took her "O level" exams. She thought her two years there were somewhat weird since she was mixing with rich people's children from all over the world. At seventeen she returned to Scotland where she worked with a personal tutor in Edinburgh. After sitting several (retake) exams she returned south to the famous Cordon Bleu cookery school in London and then went on to teach.

The 1960s saw her still in London where she was running a restaurant in Albemarle Street. She lived at the heart of "Swinging Sixties" London in the King's Road, Chelsea. The specialities of her restaurant were smart lunches and theatre suppers.

Whilst taking a holiday break in Edinburgh she was hit by a bus. Jane made light of this during

our conversation but it would seem to have been the reason why she stayed there and left behind her life in London. She then was busy doing "posh" catering for business lunches for company directors and so on.

It was at about this time that she met her husband at a friend's wedding. It was whirlwind romance (as they say) with the couple becoming engaged after just six weeks and married about a year later.

For the first two years of their marriage she and her husband lived in Edinburgh and Jane gave birth to her first baby Clare. Next a move to East Lothian saw the little family become country dwellers. It was there that Milly, their second daughter, was born. Her husband's job moved them back to the south of England and they set up home – for 36 years – in a village near Tring in Buckinghamshire. Two sons, Thomas, and seven years later, Oliver, completed their family and it was while her children were young that Jane began "collecting" waifs and strays, volunteering to help children whom she described as a bit lost. She worked with all sorts of people in all sorts of areas. She got very involved with the Citizen's Advice Bureau and an organisation called The Guidepost Trust which helped to get people out of mental hospital. She became so passionately involved, working

with them for 15 years, that she then became a Mental Health Commissioner (following a new Act of Parliament) which required her to inspect mental health facilities. This led to her taking a 3-year training course at Leicester Polytechnic for social work. After gaining her qualifications she returned to working with mainly adult mentally ill people. This work she did for 17 years, not surprisingly becoming a manager in her area.

All this time she, her husband and their children had no interest in God and certainly no thoughts on Christianity. However in 1987 they spent time with some close friends and the conversion happened (Jane describes this in some detail in reply to one of my questions). For her and her husband it was a life-changing experience but even more so for her children. (They are, all four of them, totally involved in the Church with her eldest daughter, Clare, a chaplain at Christ Church Cathedral and a minister at St Andrews in Summertown.) It was at a Christian convention in Chicago, in a place called Willow Creek, that she encountered Food Banks. That was in the nineties when the whole movement was developing in the USA.

On retirement in 2007 she and her husband moved to Oxfordshire. Not ever being a person to sit back and take life easy Jane decided that "the City of Dreaming Spires" was not all affluence and gentle living. She found that there was definitely a need and set about recruiting a group of friends to see what they

could do. With her experience as social worker and working with local churches she looked around for support. It was eight years ago that she approached Howard and her enthusiasm and persuasion won him over. Bishop John Pritchard was a great supporter and inaugurated the St Francis Food Bank on a grand opening night.

Jane and her husband live in Bladon, near Woodstock, and have in the grounds of their home a large barn that used to be their storage unit. However, the Food Bank has outgrown this facility and new premises have now been found.

Not that this is the only voluntary work that this indomitable lady does. Her husband is closely involved in a big charity in Zimbabwe called Zane. It helps people in times of National Emergency which can erupt at any time. Naturally the greatest need is funding so these two "retired" individuals go on what Jane describes as "crazy walks" (being sponsored) across the length and breadth of Britain.

To see Jane and her team of volunteers in St Francis Church running the Food Bank is a moving and rewarding experience. I sat, while I was waiting to start my interview, and quietly witnessed the respect and friendliness offered to people who are obviously in real need. What did they need? How far had they come? Could they manage their bags of basic provisions and, best of all, would they like some coffee and a biscuit? All this seems to come

as second nature to Jane and to see the gratitude written on the faces of the visitors also, I know, brings its own rewards to this indomitable lady.

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

I was not a leader, my older brother bossed me around. I felt very secure but not pushy.

Was there anyone in your life who has had a strong influence on you?

Yes, I should think my governess, Fossie.

Has your faith been with you since you were young?

No, I converted in 1987. We were away at a Christian house party in Rome. It was full of weird Christians! John Collins, a wonderful man, highly involved with Alpha, was preaching. He grabbed my imagination. We came back and then took our three younger children to a family Christian house party and we were all converted. Our eldest daughter who had been away came home to a houseful of Christians!!

Do you have a treasured possession?

No, things are not important to me.

What is your opinion of present-day society?

Things are not worse than they ever were – there has always been a society where people fell

through the net - I think that now there is more awareness.

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

I fear for the family as a secure unit. There are all sorts of things that are breaking it down, children allowed to grow up too soon. I would like to change that and bring more concentration on family life.

Which period of your adult life has given you the

most satisfaction?

I have been very blessed throughout my life so I cannot really pinpoint any part of it in particular.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

In the country, walking, gardening, with my family all around me. I also have ten grandchildren.

What plans do you have for the future?

God willing I shall be doing what I am doing now. We shall probably move into Oxford later on.

Open the Book

Drama in local schools...my experience of this.

A few of us (often four) have got together at Cowley St. James School once each fortnight this term. The four of us are the principal actors, while four to six children are recruited from different classes to take on minor roles. None of us have to memorize any lines; rather we work from a script. The script is powerful and imaginative and enables us to put across the emotions in the drama, as well as telling the biblical story.

We use a variety of props which enable the children to do some effective miming, as well as saying a few lines, which gives an added visual dimension to what we do.

Once the performance has been introduced and the background to the story explained, we have no trouble in holding the children's attention. The drama is written in language that is straightforward, yet contains striking and memorable phrases. It has felt satisfying that our performances have met with enthusiastic applause. We pray that God will continue to bless our efforts in spreading the good news about Jesus.

The stories we have explored include the early life of King David and some of the miracles and parables of Jesus.

If any of you reading this feel prompted to become a member of the cast or can help with making or supplying props please get in touch with Lesley Williams or myself.

John Booty

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NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



Our recent Pirate Fun Day was a great success. It seems that many people fancied being a Pirate for the day, and local young families poured in to support the event. After initial anxieties about the number of helpers, everything came together on the day and all the careful planning came to fruition. We just hope that one or two of those families might see their way to attending one of our Sunday Services.

Like many churches today we are having to come to terms with changing times and attitudes. So we are looking for new ways to make our services more meaningful for those who are younger in the faith, and for whom liturgy and ceremony are meaningless. This is where our Worship Committee comes in as we look back on previous services and try to plan new ones. There is no doubt that our monthly

All Age Services are popular with our younger people. Their presentation of Bible Stories in a challenging and informative way seems to make sense to people and gives them something to think about.

Another quiet success is our Coffee, Cake and Communion Service held monthly in the vicarage. This opportunity to take communion in a different setting that is both calm and peaceful seems to appeal to a number of people who find it helpful and relaxing.

We value all who do help us move forward in St Francis and we hope that more will offer to help and ease the load on the regulars.

John Shreeve

FRIENDS OF ST FRANCIS

This long standing church group meets twice monthly in our church. Primarily a prayer and study group, we are currently following a bible based course written by an experienced Christian of international standing. This is not so heavy as some we have used, but it seems to suit us all and we are enjoying it.

Although we are at present comprised mostly of senior citizens, we would welcome younger members, indeed anyone who cares to join us.

After the serious part of the meeting we always have a period of socialising with tea and biscuits, and the chance of a good chat. This is very informal with a good deal of light humour, and the chance to catch up with the latest news regarding anyone who has been ill and needs our prayers.

Our numbers, although not large, have remained fairly constant and our members feel at ease with one another. We are always willing to learn more things about our faith in an atmosphere that encourages free talk and discussion.

We are currently led by a lay person.

John Shreeve

The Jesus Papyrus

(An Amazing Local Discovery)

On Christmas Eve 1994 'The Times' reported on its front page an extraordinary claim made by a German papyrologist Carsten Thiede. A papyrus believed to be the oldest fragment of the New Testament has been found in an Oxford Library. It provides the first material evidence that the Gospel according to Matthew is an eye witness account written by contemporaries of Christ.

The story concerned three tiny scraps of paper belonging to Magdalen College, Oxford. On both sides of the fragments appeared Greek script, phrases from St Matthew Chapter 26. Though the verses concern a crucial moment in the life of Christ, the scraps looked unremarkable in themselves. Yet Thiede (Director of the Institute for Epistemological Research) argued that they were of astonishingly early origin dating from the mid-first century AD. Not since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 had there been such an important breakthrough in Biblical Research. Thiede appeared to have found evidence that St Matthews Gospel had been written only a generation after the crucifixion or even earlier. The papyrus itself, unearthed in Upper Egypt, and bequeathed to Magdalen in 1901, might conceivably have been read or handled by one of the five hundred brethren whom St Paul says had seen the resurrected Christ with their own eyes.

Given the fragile nature of papyrus as a material, it is nothing short of a miracle that these fragments have survived until these present times. Let alone our having the ability to read and translate them.

It was not only in academic circles that this new research inspired strong emotions. The author was overwhelmed with telephone calls and letters seeking further information.

How wonderful to think that these amazing fragments are to be found on our own doorstep here in Oxford.

John Shreeve

Friends of St James Old School

We have established this new community group to ensure continuing support for the Old School: we are just awaiting the opening of the bank account, prior to making the membership forms available – annual subscription £10 single, £20 family. We hope to sign up many former students and staff – and interested local residents.

Meanwhile Church Cowley St James School's amazing 'allotment garden' in the playground has begun to produce crops – strawberries have finished, peas and mangetout have been harvested – and generally immediately eaten raw! - spinach, salads, tomatoes are on the way. Sadly, the garden has for the first time – and we hope the last – been vandalised with some fruit trees and vegetables damaged. Spikey shrubs are to be planted on the perimeter. Even more wooden planters are still in the plans, along with manure to enrich the soil and a larger water butt. You can imagine that keeping the garden watered is quite a task; Y3 children are in charge under the guidance of teacher Laura Collins. She has already found that the outdoor learning has benefitted some of the children with additional needs – their language and socialisation have developed. From September, working on the allotment will be part of the core curriculum for Y3, Y4, Y5 children.

We still await confirmation that the County Council will find the grant funding to repair the building and for it then to become the Nursery section of Church Cowley St James School, for all the school's 2 to 5 year olds. Traffic calming measures for Beauchamp Lane are also being considered.

There will be an open meeting for the previous Steering Group and anyone wishing to discuss ideas and visit the site at 11.00 on Saturday 5 September 2015.

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As it was more comfortable and convenient inside the Church Centre, Cowley WI held their June Garden party indoors instead!

After hearing the delegates' reports on the WI Centenary Annual Meeting held in London at the Royal Albert Hall, and the Royal Garden party at Buckingham Palace, it was on with their own party. Members took part in games and quizzes, supported a Bring and Buy Stall and a grand raffle and enjoyed a Cream Tea.

Our July meeting will be held two weeks later than usual on Wednesday, 29 July, at 2 pm. Trine Lucy, who is a WI Judge for all types of craft, will talk on My Crafty Life and show examples of her lovely work, including several quilts. We look forward to see you then. Do come – you will be very welcome.

Ann Withers
President, Cowley WI

Prayers from the Ark

By Carmen Bernos de Gasztold

Translated from the French and with a Foreword and Epilogue by Rumer Godden

THE PRAYER OF THE DONKEY

O God, who made me
to trudge along the road
always,
to carry heavy loads
always,
and to be beaten
always!

Give me great courage and gentleness.
One day let somebody understand me –
that I may no longer want to weep
because I can never say what I mean
and they make fun of me.
Let me find a juicy thistle –
and make them give me time to pick it.
And, Lord, one day, let me find again
my little brother of the Christmas crib.

AMEN

PRAYERS FOR INTERVIEWS OF NEW TEAM RECTOR

St James church will be open for prayer on Monday 13 July 9am to 6pm (the day before the interviews for a new Team Rector) People are invited to drop in to the church to pray for this for just as long as they may wish.

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MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Not having a speaker at the June branch meeting gave us an opportunity to deal with a considerable amount of outstanding issues. First on our agenda was our reaction to the change that the Wheels Appeal has made at source. We decided that since the emphasis has been altered and the money raised will not necessarily support members abroad who need transport we are going to donate our money to the diocesan overseas outreach project. We intend to hold another poetry, wine and cheese evening in the autumn with that project in mind.

Our next, and main, discussion was the need to encourage younger women to join our membership. We realise that several of our present members joined as "young wives" over sixty years ago and in order to hand on our Mothers Union baton to the next generation we need a big recruitment push. It was agreed that to persuade some of our young mums to come to an attractive evening we will organise a pampering evening. This will be on-going through the summer and a date will be fixed again in the autumn.

Headington parish have revived their former Mothers' Union branch and we agreed that a card of congratulations would be a friendly gesture. It was also suggested that we invite them to join us at our July meeting. This, by tradition, takes the form of a summer tea-party. The plans for this were discussed, and it was agreed that it would be held on the 21 July. We hope that all our members will be able to come and bring along a friend. As ever it will be a bring-and-share tea with the committee providing jelly and ice-cream and strawberries and cream.

The newly inaugurated Mothers' Union corporate communion for July will be in St James Church at noon on Monday, 7 July.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

St. James' Vestry

FEBRUARY 1965

The people of St. James' were most deeply grateful to learn that in her will, Miss. Welch, late of The Grates, had made a bequest of £200 to the church. £100 will be used for providing cupboards for the cassocks; the rest will be put into reserve.

JANUARY 1974

Plans for a sink, water heating and coffee-making facilities to be installed in the north west corner of St. James are being prepared at the request of the church's management committee. The church intends to spend a legacy received last year on this project.

CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the next edition:

Wednesday 26 August 2015

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

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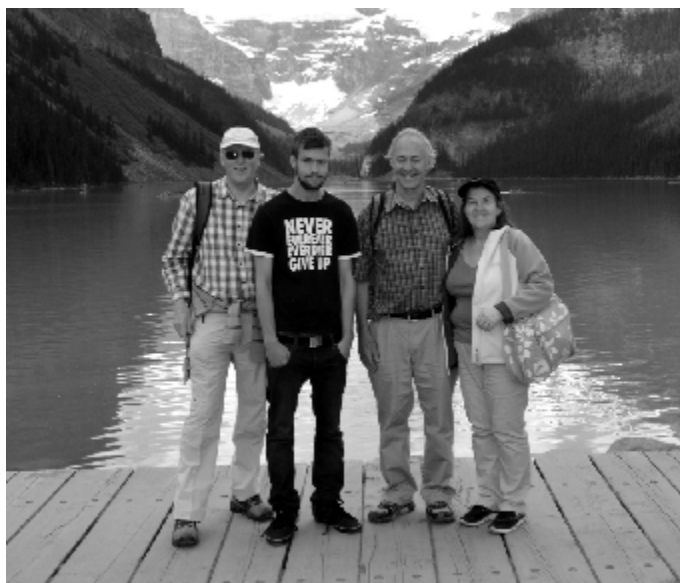
Rocky times across Canada

Readers of The Chronicle will be interested in news of Carol and Howard Thornton and David who are now well settled in Canmore and Banff high in the Rocky Mountains of western Canada. I was fortunate to be able to visit them there in mid-June and to see something of the life of their new parish as well as the stunning beauty of this part of Canada. The first thing I said to Howard when I drew up in my car outside his house was, "Wow, you have a mountain in your back garden!" In fact the mountain is a mile or so away but every window in their new home looks out on beautiful misty mountains. I can report that the family is well settled (although they only moved into their permanent home two weeks before I arrived) and enjoying being closer to family. In fact I was there for a family picnic with Howard's brother and other relatives.

Both churches are beautiful (although not as old, of course, as St. James) and in Canmore they have a modern hall, kitchen and office facility which is also used by a Baptist congregation and many community groups. On Tuesday nights they have a 'Community Supper' when they serve a hot cooked meal to up to 150 people from the local area. There's a target for our lunch club! Their Sunday services are both traditional and lively with contemporary music and a lot of participation by the congregation. At the end everyone shared the blessings they had received from God in the last week.

I enjoyed two days of mountain walking with Howard, Carol and David. Future visitors be warned, Banff is 5,000 feet above sea level and the oxygen gets a little thin as you reach the mountain tops at over 7,000 feet – but the views are more than worth the effort.

Leaving the Rockies I came to Toronto for a week of hard work with a small group of leaders from the Anglican Church around the world. Anglicans



face rocky times in many parts of the world. One of our members could not join us because his country, Burundi in central Africa, is in political turmoil. Another bishop who was with us was from Pakistan which has seen many terrorist attacks in recent months. The chair of our meeting was a bishop from Malaysia where Christians are under increasing pressure. The focus of our meeting, however, was on discipleship. In most parts of the world Anglican churches are growing, very fast in some places, and the most urgent need is to disciple the new believers. We are now preparing to launch a ten year period when Anglicans in every part of the world will focus on discipleship, how we follow Jesus daily.

Whilst staying in Canada I could not avoid the fact that the nation itself faces rocky times. The government has just published a report on the poor (sometimes abusive) treatment of the original inhabitants of Canada many years ago – especially the children who were taken into residential schools. Churches, who ran many of these schools, as well as the nation are being called upon to give apologies and make restitution for these inhuman actions of the past.

Mark Oxbrow

SAINTS OF THE MONTH

St Martha

Martha is the patron saint of housewives, often depicted in art and stained glass windows with either a ladle, a broom or a bunch of keys (not exactly glamorous or exciting). But, of course, as we all know, she was the sister of Lazarus, whom Jesus brought back to life, and Mary, often referred to as Mary Magdalen.

The most famous story of Martha is that of a very distracted hostess making supper for Jesus, and no doubt a group of disciples, with no help from her sister. Mary sat at Our Lord's feet with no thought of helping in the kitchen which caused Martha to become pretty cross. I feel quite sorry for her when she was rebuked by Jesus for "letting fly". All she really wanted was for her guests to be properly looked after.

Martha, Mary and Lazarus would appear to have been very good friends of Jesus as He is recorded as having visited their Bethany home on several occasions. The other well-known Bible reference is Jesus' great distress at the death of Lazarus. Raising him from the tomb to the utter joy of Martha and Mary is depicted beautifully in one of the stained glass windows in our own St James Church.

There is no record of her life after the resurrection and no-one knows how or when she died even though her sister and brother reputedly travelled to Provence in Southern France to evangelize the region.

Typical of medieval Christianity, legendary stories sprang up around her name. It was said that her relics were discovered and enshrined at Tarascon in France. The other story is that whilst she was living in the region she was supposed to have tamed a dragon by scattering it with holy water. She then wrapped her sash round its neck and led it in to the town of Arles. There the poor old dragon was killed.

The Greeks attribute her to the group of holy women who brought spices and oils to the Holy Tomb on the first Easter day but again this can only be supposition.

Martha's feast day is celebrated on 29th July.

St Sidwell

This saint is said to be of English origin and is venerated in Exeter in Devon. A shrine was established there for her in early times and in the year 1000 AD it is recorded that pilgrims were flocking there.

The late medieval catalogue of English saints tells her story: Sidwell was born in Exeter. She had a jealous stepmother who, in order to rid herself of her stepdaughter, waited until harvest time and incited the reapers in the field to behead her with a scythe. It is more than likely to be based on fact as her sister, Juthwara, suffered, too, in a dreadful way from this spiteful woman. The poor girl suffered so much sadness and pain on the death of her and Sidwell's father that the stepmother recommended two cheeses applied to her breasts. She then told her own wicked son Bana that Juthwara was pregnant. He looked for evidence but though it was never proved he beheaded his half-sister anyway.

Back to poor little Sidwell – there are many representations of her in Devonshire. She appears, with a scythe, on rood-screens and in a stained glass window in Exeter Cathedral. There is also an image of her in a window in the chapel of All Souls College in Oxford.

A well of healing water sprang up near to where she and her sister died and soon became the place of pilgrimage mentioned earlier. Both the girls were Christian virgins spitefully cut down at an early age.

Sidwell's feast day is celebrated on the 1st August.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JULY AND AUGUST

In memory of her late husband, Prince Albert, Queen Victoria unveiled the Albert Memorial in London on 1st July 1872.

On 3rd July 1928 John Logie Baird transmitted the first television pictures.

The birthday of the National Health Service is celebrated on 5th July. From this date in 1948 everyone in Britain is entitled to free medical care.

Wimbledon staged its first lawn tennis championship on 9th July 1877

On 20th July 1588 news reached Plymouth that the Spanish Armada had been sighted from the Isles of Scilly heading towards the English Channel. Sir Francis Drake was playing bowls when the news broke but instead of dashing to his ship he is supposed to have said, "There is plenty of time to finish our game and thrash the Spaniards too".

On the 1st August 1939 Glen Miller and his band recorded the tune "In The Mood".

15 armed men wearing masks stopped the London mail train at 3.10 am on 8th August 1963. The train was loaded with used banknotes on their way to being destroyed. After breaking into the mail vans, the Great Train Robbers drove off with approximately £2.5 million.

August 12th is known as "The Glorious Twelfth". It is the date when the new grouse-shooting season starts – not so "glorious" for the grouse!

On 15th August in 1945 the world celebrated the final day when World War Two ended. It is known as VJ Day (Victory over Japan). The Allied Forces had fought on for two more months after VE Day.

J R R Tolkien's first book "The Lord of the Rings" was published in London on 26th August 1954.

A Special Birthday

Lesley Williams' recent 70th birthday weekend, celebrated with family and friends over 3 days - was further enhanced by the winning of a regional netball award. She did not actually go to the Netball South awards night in Farnborough, Hampshire on Friday 12 June, as it clashed with the birthday arrangements but Lesley was thrilled to hear by text that she had won the Muriel McNally award, nominated by Oxfordshire Netball and her club, Abbey NC. The award, for "outstanding contribution to netball delivery through administration, coaching or officiating at grassroots level for a minimum of 10 years" is made annually in each England Netball region and then nationally at the Golden Globes night in September. Lesley is former Chair of her club and currently Chair of Oxfordshire Netball League; she still plays and umpires and occasionally coaches. The trophy will be presented at the Oxfordshire Netball AGM on July 7 and Lesley plans to go to the national awards night.

Many congratulations to Lesley on this award – a special birthday made even more special.

Church Cowley St James CE Primary School

We are now coming to the end of the academic year at Church Cowley Primary, yet there is still so much to do for the children and the community!

Our summer fete is on Saturday 11th July from 11am – 4pm and this year it has a 'Circus' theme. All of the children in the school have been learning circus skills, including plate spinning, juggling and stilt walking, which they will be demonstrating in the 'Circus Big Top' at the fete. There will also be an Edwardian helter-skelter, bungee trampolines, a food court and a rodeo bull, as well as many vintage stalls and games. We hope to see you all there – it's going to be spectacular!

A large group of children will be taking part in the Cowley Road Carnival on Sunday 5th July. We have been busy making our costumes; all are made of recycled materials and are based on our school values of: Moral Courage, Compassion, Tolerance and Respect. The Carnival is always a fabulous event and so the children are all very excited – we hope to see you there!

In the last few weeks, the children in year 1, 2 and 6 have been taking their national tests – Phonics testing in year 1 and SATs in years 2 and 6. We have seen a dramatic increase in our phonics results for this year, due to a huge push on improving teaching and learning across the school. We are also feeling positive about our SAT results for both key stage 1 and key stage 2. These results should be with us shortly.

This year we have continued to work on the new curriculum throughout the school. Exciting projects such as 'Dinosaurs' have seen the children really motivated and engaged in their work, bringing learning to life! The children got to witness a huge Dinosaur egg cracking and hatching in the middle of the playground - our baby Triceratops still likes to play with the children at playtime! The children have also loved learning and performing new skills this year

such as Djembe drumming, playing the Ukulele, Salsa dancing, working on the allotment and running the café. Our 'Cow-Shed' has now been built and will be running in September (it certainly is a sight!).

Over the summer the field will be turned into a Multi-Purpose Games Area (MUGA), a huge building project, so that the children can use it all year round for sports and playtimes, strengthening our curriculum, engagement and learning opportunities.

All of our staff have worked hard to improve the teaching and learning throughout the school and we feel we are in a really good place for the new academic year. We have a few new teachers joining us in September and so we look forward to them sharing their expertise and joining our school community. We will continue to build on all of the fantastic links we have made over the past couple of years and have lots of new projects to get our teeth into!

We look forward to strengthening our links with the parish further and improving the provision for both the children and the school community in the future in order to make Church Cowley a real strength in Oxford city education. We would be very interested in having parish members come in to school for tours, or for groups to be contacted when the children are doing special events so that you come into school and be an audience for the children. We'll treat you really well, show you around and give you a real flavour of what our vision for the school is and have you be a real part of our successful journey.

Please contact us on office.3210@church-cowley-st-james.oxon.sch.uk for more details and I really look forward to inviting you over the threshold, into the delight and vibrant school of Church Cowley St James Church of England Primary School.

Steve Dew
Head teacher

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCHES

St James the Apostle

The next time you are in church look up and observe the different roof styles in the church.

I have found an article in The Chronicle, dated July 1933, where it states that work would be starting on the Nave roof on Monday July 31st 1933. It asks that anybody contemplating marriage during the month of August 1933 should aim for a Saturday, as the church would be shut each weekday for the whole month.

There are different styles of roofing throughout this church and they can all easily be seen. Look at them for a minute and you will see half-trefoils, circles, vaulting and timbers with many different uses. The Chancel and Sanctuary roofs have two quite different constructions. I like them best of all.

Chancel and Sanctuary Roofs:

In the Ranklin Room at the Church Centre, there is a picture which shows that the church once had a ceiling and a gallery, both of which have been removed.

Les Hemsworth



RIDE AND STRIDE 12 SEPTEMBER 2015

As we have not had summer as yet, it does feel a little bit strange planning an autumn event, but all too soon it will be Ride & Stride time again.

The Ride & Stride will be on 12 September and the Parish will once again be taking part in this annual event, as the saying goes "you have to be in it to win it" and as we have two major projects planned in both churches we desperately need the funds raised from Ride & Stride.

I will be doing a rota for the day and would appreciate any help that you can give in welcoming St/Riders and signing off sponsor forms in both St James and St Francis, so if you have a spare hour please let me know. Another way in which your help will be needed is in sponsoring someone, I will have a list of the St/Riders so just grab me and I will steer you in their direction.

Have a lovely rested summer everyone.

June Smith

FIGHTING THE FLAB

Well it's Monday night again
And I'm off to fight the flab
If I could lose a stone
I don't think I'd look so bad

No more eating biscuits, cakes,
Bread or fish 'n' chips
Eating all this salad stuff
Is giving me the pip

I'd love a great big doughnut
Full of jam and cream
But if I want to lose these rolls
It will have to be a dream

We put the CD player on
All standing in a row
We're hoping and we're praying
The pounds are gonna go.

All this bending and stretching
Really makes me sweat
But I can't see any
Real improvement yet

My husband asked me "what's the use?
You're never gonna look like Fiona Bruce".
I realise that will never be
So I'll stuff and stuff and just be me.

Maida Simmonds

ST JAMES SUMMER FLOWER FESTIVAL

When you take weeks of planning and a great deal of organisation your reward is, when your visitors walk through the door and they exclaim "Wow!" Yes, indeed, the recent, flower, arts and craft festival in the parish church did have that "wow" factor. Almost two hundred visitors walked in and were entranced with the exhibits and the outstanding displays of flowers.

The theme for the flowers was Music Through the Ages which was interpreted in the most imaginative way by the arrangers (members of the Florence Park Flower Club, St James Church Flower Ladies and Friends). Across the high altar we were treated to "All Things Bright and Beautiful" with a glorious display of summer flowers interspersed with ears of corn, a tiny pool of water with a frog, birds, rabbits and even ladybirds hidden amongst the leaves. "Swan Lake" was a confection of white and cream with an exquisite model swan sailing across a mirror lake. We were even treated to "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary" with real silver bells and cockle shells, to "Summer Holiday" with a wonderful "sandcastle" and, of course, a London bus. The children loved "Over the Rainbow" with its yellow-brick-road, scarecrow, lion and tin man. I could go on – ever single display was amazing.

As for the arts and crafts, the standard of work was so high that visitors were asking whether any of the exhibitors are professional Well, no, except Ed Ling who is still working as a fine cabinet maker and joiner. There were stunning quilts, crochet work, embroidery, joinery, photographs, knitting, calligraphy, paintings and metal work. Those people who were kind enough to "Let their light shine" and not "hide it under a bushel" were much appreciated, twenty six individuals in all.

The problem now will be, in a couple of years, if another festival is planned, "how do you follow that?" Just to emphasise the magnificent displays, we thought you would like to know the participants:

Flower Arrangers:

Scarborough Fair	Jenny Frew
Gilbert and Sullivan – Iolanthe	Margaret Weller
Easter Parade:	Chris Knevet and Erma Clarke
Nellie the Elephant	Netta Simpkins
Love is all you need	Rita McGroarty
Buttons and Bows	Elizabeth Howe
Greensleeves	Pat and Kay Chambers
Red Sails in the Sunset (1935)	Pat and Kay Chambers
Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree (1973)	Pat and Kay Chambers
The Blue Danube (1867)	Pat and Kay Chambers
Music for the Royal Fireworks (Handel 1749)	Margaret Martin
Tea for Two	Pat Davies
All Things Bright and Beautiful	Christine Griffiths
Swan Lake	Pam Absolom
Song of St Francis	Margaret Martin
Somewhere over the Rainbow	Carmalyn Strzelecki
Mary, Mary Quite Contrary	Chris Woodman
Summer Holiday	Hilary Henwood
Keep the Home Fires Burning	Betty Mitchell
Under the Arches	Florence Park Flower Club
Bell Ringing	Bellringers

Arts and Crafts:

Calligraphy

Glass Doves of Peace

Crochet flower chain

Textile and paper craft

Creative embroidery

Abstract art, acrylic on board

Hand beaten copper work

Crochet blanket

Four cross-stitch pictures

Two crochet blankets

Freehand embroidery, still-life watercolour and pastel work

Hand knitting

Joinery and veneered crescenda

Photography - Monet's Garden

and Views of Oxford and Scotland

Quilting

Quilting

Four cross-stitch pictures

Mixed media with textiles

Creative knitting

Four hand-crafted stained glass panels

Cross-stitch picture

Two watercolours and pen and ink study

Four oil paintings

Petit-point picture

Study from Bayeux Tapestry

Cross-stitch picture – Millennium 2000

John Booty

Lindsay Powell

Catherine Hartley

Diana Pope

Marian Webster

Skye Denno

Frank Butler

Catherine Hartley

Joyce Titchell

Elizabeth Howe

Rosanne Butler

Jill Ling

Ed Ling

Les Hemsworth

Christine Griffiths

Sheila Tree

Molly Oliver

Margaret Craig

Pat Chambers

Lindsay Powell

Betty Mitchell

David Cooke

Pat Curtis

Una Dean

Joy Harbison

Valerie Goodall

SEASHELLS

We shall be open on 7th July. On July 14th we will be closed for interviews for our new Team Rector to take place. On July 21st we will be open for the last time before our summer break which will be for our Teddy Bears picnic. We will re-open on 1st September when we hope to welcome everybody back.

We are still desperate for help, both in the coffee shop and with help setting out the hall and welcoming newcomers. Please join us for coffee any Tuesday morning between 10.00 and 11.30 to see what goes on, and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

To those of the congregation who have helped over the past year, thank you from.

May Morgan and the Seashells Team

Dad decided to mow the lawn even though it was his birthday. His teenage son came home from football and said, "Hey, Dad, you should not be doing that on your birthday". His father was just about to hand over the lawn mower when the lad continued "Why don't you leave it till tomorrow?"

37th Oxford Scout Group 2015

Beavers:

We have only been up and running since January but have a healthy membership of 10 full time children and a couple more interested. We have 2 moving up to cub scouts soon. We have done a lot of fun activities in our sessions. 6 beavers came for the day to our district camp at Youlbury in May. We have a 1 night camp at Youlbury planned for July. We are getting lots of positive feedback from the parents and the children are settling nicely now the initial excitement has died down.

Cubs:

It has been another busy year at cubs -Last summer, we worked on the pioneering activity badge, attended a cycle workshop at Halfords, ran a world cup "sweep stake", and ran our regular crystal maze and athletes badge nights. We had our own pack camp at Youlbury which focused on outdoor skills like fire lighting, cooking and tracking.

In the Autumn, the cubs created and ran their own games for the pack, created a prayer tree, made a promotional video for the cub pack, made paper gliders and learnt about planes for the air activities badge, and completed some glitter candle holders as a Christmas craft.

So far this year, we have completed road safety, disability awareness and astronomer activity badges, celebrated Burns night, had a guest visit to talk about Our Faith, planned and walked a route around the local area for our Navigators badge. We also had a team of 4 in the Winter Challenge hike, Completing 9 miles and raising £500 for the pack, which we will put towards some special activities later in the year.

We have continued to link up with Wheatley Cubs throughout the year, meeting for a Wide Game around the local area, a bonfire night hike, a Quiz night, and a night playing pushball.

We have had 3 Cubs leave over the year who have all gone to scouts, with 2 of them getting the Chief Scouts Silver Awards. We are currently running with 11 Cubs, which will now be supplemented by Beavers joining us when they are old enough. As

the numbers set to increase over the next year, we would like to try and secure some more adult help!

Scouts:

2014 and 2015 have been particularly busy as we have seen our numbers grow substantially in the past twelve months. As of May 2014, we only had 12 Scouts on our books. This number currently stands at 22 with two more due to join us in June and 2 in September. We are currently running a waiting list for the group due to the maximum capacity of the hut being around 25 Scouts. The group has a high number of 10 and 11 year olds at present with only a few Scouts due to turn 14 in 2016. We have created patrols and we are just about to appoint three new Assistant Patrol Leaders. We hope to have 4 patrols by September.

We have held a number of joint activities and troop nights with the Felix Explorer Unit, maintaining a link between the two sections when it is time for the Scouts to move on to Explorers. We have held 2 sleepovers - one in November which included a trip to Coral Reef in Bracknell forest and one in February 2015 which includes a morning session of Laser Tag. In May 2015, 11 Scouts attended District Camp, which they all very much enjoyed. In the coming months, we hope to undertake more camping with the group.

A particular focus since the start of the year has been building on Scout skills as many of our members are new to scouting. With many outdoor activities on the program and more planned, we hope to start work on the new badge programme. We have already covered lots of badge-work throughout the year, including: working on towards a number of challenge badges (including the fitness challenge) Chef badge (16 Scouts achieved this), Navigator Stage Two (19 Scouts achieved this), hobbies and swimming badges. For the next year or two around half of our Scouts will be on the new and old badge programme, with the remainder just on the new programme.

We are all proud of Tristan who achieved his Chief Scouts Gold Award this year. Kate continues the role of Scout Leader, and David, Steven, Seamus,

and Adric are Assistant Scout Leaders. With better facilities available, we would be keen to increase our numbers further.

Felix Explorer scout unit:

Although Felix Explorer Scout Unit report into Oxford Spires District, rather than 37th Oxford Scout Group, we do meet here, all the leaders are part of both and most of the Explorers have come from 37th Oxford, so there are strong links between the Explorer Unit and the Scout Group. We are currently running with a small, but sustainable group of young people. On this years Census we had 7 members, which is the same as last year's Census, so although we have lost some members, we have had new members join. We are generally getting 5 or 6 members turning up to an evening. 37th Oxford Scouts are our main feeder group for new members.

We are currently running with 3 leaders, David Nutt, Steven Nutt and Adric Warth(Adders). We have managed to include a variety of activities over the year, which has included several Scouting skills like pioneering and outdoor navigation, some useful skills like cooking and first aid, as well as adventurous activities like climbing and orienteering. We have managed several camps and trips over the past year. In July last year, four Explorers went to Gillwell 24 which is an activity camp at Gillwell Park where a solid 24 hours of activities are laid on for Explorer Scouts from all over the country. Over the summer last year, some of the Explorers joined up with Wheatley Scouts and Explorers, and a group of Norwegian Scouts to attend WINGS International Scout Jamboree in Windsor Great Park. WINGS saw over five thousand Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Guides from all over the UK and abroad come together for a week long camp with activities

and entertainments laid on. So far this year, the Explorers have visited The Harry Potter StudioTour in Leavesden where they got the chance to see the props used in the Harry Potter films, and through the use of visual effects, they were able to fly their own broomstick. In the half term they attended a sleepover in the hut, followed by a laser battle at Culham. They were fortunate enough to be joined by Hannah Kentish, the newly appointed UK Youth Commissioner, who joined the activity and probably got shot by some of them. Finally, just under two weeks ago, we attended Oxford Spires District Camp at Youlbury. The Explorers from the district were given their own camp together, which meant they got to mix with other Explorer Scout Units from the district and they got some independence whilst still in a controlled environment.

Looking at the future we will be attending LINX 2015 up in Shropshire for our summer camp, along with the Scouts from 37th Oxford, Wheatley Scouts and Aristocrats Explorer Scout Unit. Then in September we will be attending 37th Oxford group camp. Due to the young ages of Scouts currently in 37th Scouts, it will be a while before we have any moving up to Explorers, but we hope to attract new members from outside 37th Oxford.

David Nutt



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SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Eucharist
Sunday Sunday Lunch – the date varies so watch for notices

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am Parish Eucharist
2nd Sunday All Age bring n/share lunch

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Thursday	2-4pm	Prayer Space—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve/	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
Josh & Claire Hordern	Thursdays at 8.00pm, often at 55 Glanville Rd joshuahordern@hotmail.com
Joel Denno	Thursday at 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Don Bosco
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.

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Vacancy

Team Vicar:

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