

Resurrection Life

It's now over a year since we went to war against Iraq. Since then, daily life for many ordinary Iraqis has become significantly worse, not better. Acts of violence and terrorism now take place on a daily basis; many children and other innocent victims are being killed in large numbers, as are American and British troops. The threat of terrorist attacks has increased in Britain as well. But no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq, and public confidence in our government and in President Bush is waning.

This month we continue to celebrate the Easter story, with the Ascension, and then Pentecost at the end of the month. These events in the life of the *church* tell us that events in the life in the *world* need not be so predictably depressing

The message of the resurrection is that God has redeemed our everyday, material life: Jesus rose in a material, not a spiritual, body; creation has been restored. Of course, we don't see that – Christianity has always had a sense of the “already, but not quite yet” about it – we'll have to

wait for the new heaven and the new earth to experience resurrection life in all its fullness. But after 40 days of living in this world in his resurrection body, Jesus ascended into heaven, leaving us on our own with the awesome responsibility of continuing to bring about the restoration of the world he started. Jesus didn't leave us powerless though, because 10 days later at Pentecost, he gave us the tools we need: the very power of God.



So as we contemplate the terrible events in our world (especially the ongoing situation in

Iraq), it is easy to be cynical, to sigh and shake our heads and tell ourselves that we knew it was wrong to go to war in the first place. That may be so, but the Easter story tells us that God has left the responsibility to bring about the world's restoration on our shoulders, no-one else's.

Mark

Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

A monthly service on the first Tuesday of the month,
alternating between St James and St Francis Churches

Healing Services:

St Francis Church
Tuesday 4th May 7.30
pm

note slightly later time



St James Church
Tuesday 1st June 7.30 pm

The ministry of healing is available at St James' Church every Sunday during the 10 o'clock service. Please go to St Luke's Chapel after you have received Communion where members of the Healing Team will be available to listen and to pray in complete confidence.

Sundays @ Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock

May 2nd In His presence

June 6th Exploring the Trinity

July 4th Open to God



Ascension Day

Thursday 20th May

ST FRANCIS
7.30 pm Holy Eucharist

note later time

ST JAMES
9.30 am Holy Communion
7.00 pm Sung Eucharist

Dear Friends

Thank you so much for your most kind and generous gifts for our leaving presents. We have decided to spend the £300 cheque on garden furniture and have already made the first of our purchases - we hope that won't mean dreadful weather this summer! We have always enjoyed our garden and now we will be able to do so in luxury - and we will be able to remember you all and think of good times that we spent at St Francis and St James and in Cowley and Headington.

Thank you also for the picture from Junior Church - it is up on the wall in my study as I write and will bring back fond memories. The chocolates have been eaten and greatly enjoyed!!

Thank you, too, for Clare's vase - it is splendid and will look marvellous with all sorts of flowers and arrangements. The chickens are a promise of good things to come - and are much appreciated and admired by all!

We did so enjoy the service and party afterwards last Sunday; it was very moving and touching that so many people came to wish us well. Moving on is not an easy thing to do for us. We have lived in Cowley as long as we have lived anywhere else since we were married; it has been a great privilege to share people's lives here; we have received a great deal from many people and our lives have been enriched enormously by the love, friendship and fellowship that we have experienced here. Moving on is a sad and difficult experience for us, and a part of us will always remain here. But we move on thankful for many good times and many joys; we take many fond memories with us, and we go with our lives the richer for having been here and having received so much.

We wish St Francis, the parish, the Team and you all the riches of God's blessings in the future and you will remain in our prayers,

God bless

Fr John and Clare

WHO IS THAT AT YOUR FRONT DOOR?

Four steps to beat the bogus caller...

Celebrities such as Sir Jimmy Young, Valerie Singleton and Terry Wogan are backing the Home Office **Lock, Stop, Chain and Check** campaign, encouraging older people to take four simple steps to protect their home from bogus callers.

Most people who call at your home will be genuine, but sometimes, people turn up unannounced with the intention of gaining access under false pretences. They are known as bogus callers or 'distraction burglars', whose only aim is to get into homes, distract people, and steal their money or valuables.

Bogus callers may be smartly dressed and claim to be from gas, water or electricity companies, the council, the police or health organisations. They may be men, women or even children. They may ask for a drink of water or to wash their hands. Some may be looking for a lost pet. In fact, people may use any story.

However, with the support of national organisations such as the Royal British Legion, Age Concern and Neighbourhood Watch, and police forces around England and Wales, following these steps can help you to beat the bogus caller and protect yourself and vulnerable members of your family.

1. LOCK

Always keep your back and front door locked even when you are at home or just popping out briefly.

2. STOP

If there is someone at your door, stop and think whether you are expecting anyone. Ensure the back door is locked before answering the front door so that nobody

can sneak in while you are talking to the caller.

3. CHAIN

If you decide to open the door, put the door bar or chain on first. Keep the chain on while you talk to the person on the doorstep. When the door is closed, remove the chain in case you need to get out quickly.

4. CHECK

If a stranger wants to come in and claims that they are from a utility company, the local authority or any other organisation, always ask for their ID, even if you were expecting them - genuine callers will happily show you ID. Close the door and check the ID carefully. Call the head office if you are still unsure, but use the number from the telephone directory or a recent utility bill, not the one on the card.

Remember, only let a caller in if you are absolutely sure that they are genuine – if in doubt, keep them out!

Contact your local police station for more information and advice.





Rosanne interviews Tony Beetham

“I have always taken the view that our daily work whatever it is, is an important area for the outworking of our Christian faith, and just as much a vocation as that of roles which are traditionally described as vocations!” That sentence I think sums up Tony Beetham’s philosophy on life and cropped up more than once during our recent interview. You see he became manager of the Oxford Bus Company in 1969 and after a five-year term there he moved on to a series of managerial posts with the National Bus Company. Before retirement he held the position of Director of Planning and was involved in the privatisation of the National Bus Company. Throughout his working life he has been driven by Christian principles and was pleased that, particularly during his time at Oxford, relations between management and staff, which had previously gone through a difficult patch, improved.

With his wife Helen and their family, Tony came to Oxford and has lived in the same house on Rosehill for 35 years. But what about life before that?

He was born and brought up in the city of Derby. During the war years of his childhood his father like many others was away in the services. Of course Derby with its industry

was a main target for air raids but he recalls the freedom which he and his sister experienced in their young lives. He describes the remarkable freedom of cycling up to the Peak District and the times he spent at Ambergate following his lifetime hobby of train-spotting (Another train-spotter! How many more am I going to discover through my interviews?) Journeys on steam trains have always given him a thrill, they still do, and with a cousin living in Yeovil he often made the train journey to spend holidays in that lovely part of England.

From the age of eight he attended the preparatory department of Bemrose Grammar School and stayed on to become a student in the secondary department until he was eighteen. His main love was music. He entered and won the house music competitions on several occasions and his piano playing was mentioned in the school magazine. In the sixth form he studied economics from where he gained a place at the London School of Economics. During his college years he became a member of the London University Christian Union which, he says, played a significant part in his spiritual growth. After graduating, his career moved into public transport. For a couple of years he returned to Derby and met his life long partner,

Helen. They both taught in the local Sunday School. He then moved to Gillingham in Kent where he began his management training and courted Helen by letter. This was obviously a great success because in 1958 they were married and set up home in Brighton, where Tony had a new post. It was during their 4 years there that their son Timothy was born. The next move was to Port Talbot in South Wales where he found his career so demanding on his time that Helen teased him about making a mistress out of his work! However he did manage to find time for family life and their two daughters Joy and Sarah were born there. On 1st January 1969 the Beetham family moved to Oxford. Tony began working with the Oxford Bus Company and they found a warm welcome at St Clements Church where they have happy memories of their time there and the friends they made.

It was while worshipping at St Clements that Tony was encouraged to learn more about a new form of ministry which the Oxford Diocese was about to launch, in which men (only men in the early 70’s) remained in their secular employment, whilst at the same time were trained and ordained. For many years he had wondered about ordination, but felt public

transport was his vocation at first. With this scheme he could manage both. He became one of 15 guinea pigs on the Oxford Ministry course and the Bishop of Oxford ordained them three years later.

I mentioned retirement earlier but our interviewee is quick to say that he hasn't quite reached that point yet! About two days a week are taken up by the administrative position he holds on the Safety Council for the National Bus Company. From his office in the Cowley Road, he and a colleague administer a number of initiatives and publicity to raise awareness and encourage safer public transport. To top it all he has jointly written the history of the National Bus Company and one gets the impression that he has other schemes in the back of his mind even yet!

St James' has now become his and Helen's Church. They have been coming for about a year now and feel very welcome. One of the bonuses is that they are able to walk there in a matter of minutes and we are pleased that they have "found" us.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

A rather timid child really. I found schoolwork pretty easy although I could never do art.

Do you have any memories of childhood which make you think "I'll never forget...?"

I can remember when I used to visit my cousin in Yeovil.

We would wander the countryside. One day we chucked stones at a chicken house – "I can't think why" – We got caught by the farmer who recognised my maroon blazer. We had stopped to chat to some American troops, who were probably preparing for D-Day. They used to give us gum and chocolate! My main memory though is the tremendous freedom we had to cycle and wander.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

Well I didn't like Sunday School! In 1947 I went to the Boys Crusaders Class – that got me started. The next spiritual influence was Christian Union at University and the next getting married to Helen. We were two Christians setting up home together, we were soul mates. Then of course the Bishop's scheme in 1972. God has been leading me in many different ways.

What do you think is good about modern society?

I think there is a greater openness in society – attitudes are less inhibited.

What makes you angry or disappointed about life today?

Angry? Cruelty to children. The other thing we've lost is neighbourly care. We've become more isolated and fragmented.

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

I listen to music (it tends to be

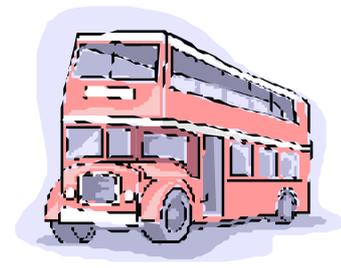
classical). I enjoy doing crosswords and giving time to my grandchildren. I like visiting steam trains. In May we're going to North Wales narrow gauge railway. Helen and I are National Trust members.

What makes you laugh?

The "Dad's Army" type of humour makes me chuckle.

What plans and ambitions do you have for the future?

We've no plans to move, we will probably stay where we are. I enjoy doing the things I do. I have a full life and I look forward to more of the same.



LIKE MUMMY

A two-and-a-half-year-old walked into the bathroom while her mother was putting on make-up. "I'm going to look just like you, Mummy!" she announced. "Maybe, when you grow up," her mother told her. "No Mummy, tomorrow. I just put on that 'Oil of Old Lady' you always use."



How to Grow Our Church: Led By The Spirit

'Let the church return to Pentecost and Pentecost will return to her' (Andrew Murray). If we want to see our churches grow, we need to go back to the disciples' experience at Pentecost (Acts 2), when 3000 were added to the church in a single day! The crowd testified 'each of us hears them speaking in his own language/ dialect' (8). Recognising that everybody understood Greek at the time, this powerfully reminds us how the Holy Spirit will enable us to speak the language of our friends, neighbours and colleagues. His power can break down the barriers that prevent others from hearing and responding to the Gospel.

What can we learn from the first disciples?

They were all expectant:

They waited prayerfully in Jerusalem for the gift promised by God (Acts 1:14). Are we expectant for the Spirit to move in our worship? Do we give him space to speak and gift us?

They were all involved:

Throughout Acts we see the Spirit usually coming on groups rather than simply individuals. He belongs to the whole church, not just a few! Do we share our stories of what he is doing in our lives? Are we looking at what he's doing on the fringes (this can show us where he is moving)?

They were all filled:

They were filled with the presence of Jesus, along with new gifts, energy and boldness to share the gospel. In what ways are we being filled with his Spirit, not just for ourselves, but in order to be emptied out for the needs of others?

The challenge remains 'we all want to be full of the Spirit, but few want to be filled' (AW Tozer).



Not for the first time, Fiona wished there was a crèche where she could leave the children.

DANGER HERE FOR CHRISTIANS

North Korea is the world's most dangerous country for Christians to live in, according to recent research by the Christian charity, Open Doors.

North Korea's record for religious persecution beats even that of Saudi Arabia and Laos. Its 400,000 believers risk imprisonment, torture and death if they practice Christianity publicly. Already tens of thousands of North Korean Christians are held in labour camps, where they face torture, starvation and death.

Despite this, refugees fleeing to China have reported that the Church in Korea has not only survived, but is growing.

Other countries that make the Open Doors' World Watch list include Vietnam, Iran, Myanmar (Burma) and China. Religious persecution is increasing in Eritrea, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.

An estimated 200 million Christians worldwide are suffering persecution for their faith.

**THE BIBLE
IN 50 WORDS**

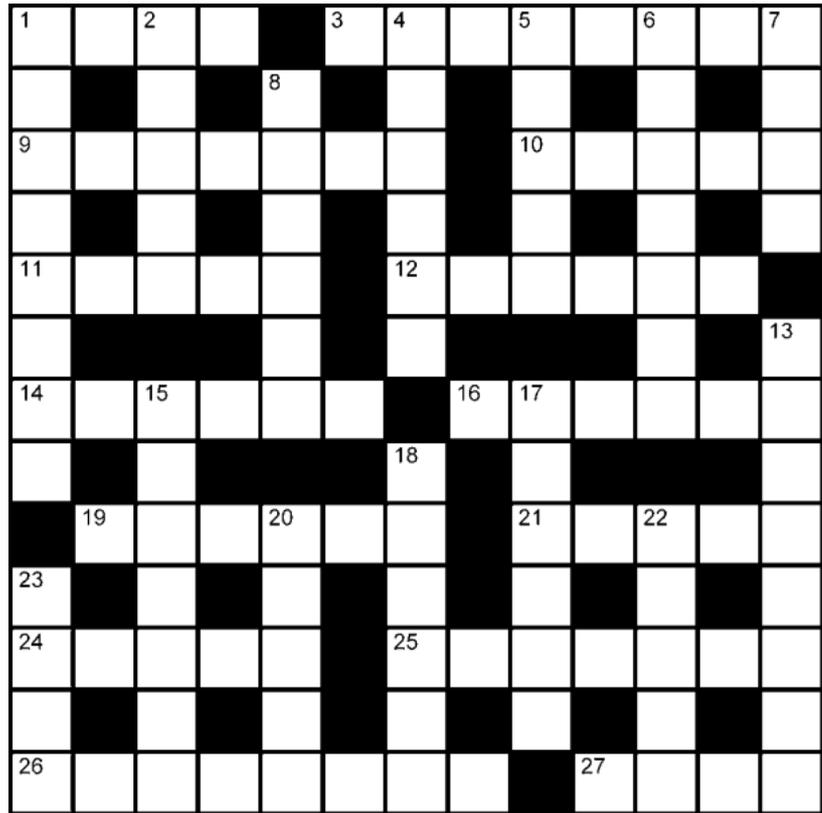
God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peaked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.
- anon



April's Solution

M	A	R	K		M	A	N	A	S	S	E	H
E	O	C	L		A	E	O					
R	A	P	H	A	E	L	R	U	R	A	L	
C	E	M	O		O	P	Y					
I	S	S	U	E		W	I	N	T	E	R	
F		L	S					N				
U	N	L	E	S	S		M	A	R	T	H	A
L		U				R		W				Z
I	C	I	C	L	E		H	O	S	E	A	
N	I	A		U		I		H				R
O	F	F	E	R		B	E	L	I	E	V	E
A		E	R		E	E		B				T
H	U	R	R	Y	I	N	G		W	A	S	H

May's Crossword



CLUES

Across

- 1 Husband of Jezebel (4)
- 3 A person engaged in retail trade (8)
- 9 Seaport capital of Ionia where Paul addressed the elders of Ephesus (7)
- 10 Language of ancient Rome (5)
- 11 Of a kind not seen before (5)
- 12 Home of the Tabernacle before Solomon's temple (6)
- 14 Ancient Greek city (6)
- 16 Father-in-Law to Moses (6)
- 19 Early name for the land of Palestine (6)
- 21 A young person (5)
- 24 A Moabitess, daughter-in-Law of Naomi (5)
- 25 A married man (7)
- 26 A depository where wealth and precious objects are kept (8)
- 27 Forced service (4)

Down

- 1 Descendant of the son of Lot (8)
- 2 Give permission (5)
- 4 A military standard (6)
- 5 Accompanied Joshua as he reconnoitred the land of Canaan for Moses (5)
- 6 Ancient capital of Syria (7)
- 7 Portable shelter (4)
- 8 Deprive of food (6)
- 13 First day of the week (5,3)
- 15 Punishment intended as a warning to others (7)
- 17 A defence of failure to keep a promise (6)
- 18 Fix firmly and stably (6)
- 20 The residue that remains when something is burned (5)
- 22 A visual representation (5)
- 23 Related to a sheep but having a beard and straight horns (4)

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) All Age Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
1.00 pm	Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship
6.00 pm	Evening Service <i>[1st Sunday of the month]</i>

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>
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Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	12.00 pm	Eucharist - <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	8.00 pm	St Francis Discussion Group – <i>4 Long Close</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.10 am	Mothers and Toddlers – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist - followed by coffee – <i>St James</i>
	11.00 am	St Francis Prayer Group
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	7.00 pm	Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i>
Saturday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast – <i>St Francis</i>

Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Confessions and Home Communion can be made with any of the clergy.

Days Off

Stephen has Friday off; Mark has Monday off. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and on alternate Sundays.

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