

A New Opportunity

The last Sunday in May saw the Church celebrating the feast of Pentecost when we remembered God's gift of the Holy Spirit given to his disciples as predicted by Jesus both before and after his death.

Jesus handed over his ministry to the Church and we, in our day, are successors to those courageous and faithful friends of Jesus launched out to spread the Good News across the known world.

Each year we are reminded of our unique responsibility in taking up the challenge to be the body of Christ, Jesus presence, in the world. Although we may be overawed by this onerous commission, Jesus assures us that we are not alone and that the Holy Spirit is given to us both to equip and empower us.

In our own day the Church is being even more radically challenged to work out how we undertake this task with diminishing resources both of clergy and congregation.

In our own parish we have already said goodbye to Father John and next month similarly to sister Margaret Anne. As part of the redeployment of clergy in the diocese of Oxford, Father John will not be replaced by another full-time priest. In October we shall be pleased to welcome **Lorne Denny**, at present a Non-

Stipendiary (unpaid) curate at St Barnabas Church Oxford. Lorne is an English master at Magdalen College School, Oxford and was ordained with Sister Margaret Anne. Lorne will be working with Mark and myself at both St Francis and St James churches.

As a parish now with only two full-time clergy, we are being asked to look more urgently at setting up a Ministry Team within the parish. This is something which is happening throughout the Church of England as

lay people and clergy share the work of ministry. In each church there is much talent amongst lay people and ministry teams offer us the opportunity of tapping in to this underused and often undervalued resource.

In both our churches we are being asked to

affirm and welcome lay ministry alongside traditional priestly ministry.

The disciples accepted the challenge of founding the Church with eagerness and confidence. Now a new challenge is being offered to us in our own day. We need not be fearful, for Jesus has assured us that he is with us as we journey forward.



Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

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

Healing Services:

Tuesday 6th July 7.30 pm

note slightly later time

St Francis Church

Tuesday 3rd Aug 7.30 pm

St James Church

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.



CARRY THEM IN, ANYWAY YOU CAN

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10

Jesus never called anyone bad. He called them lost. He understood that they'd lost their way, lost their self-confidence, lost control of their lives and, in some cases, lost their reason to live. That's why He told his disciples, "I will make you fishers of men." (Mt 4:19) Note, He said we are to fish for them, not hunt them down or shoot them!

Now, a fisherman who can't catch fish won't stay in business for long. There's a little restaurant called Mr John Bs which has a rusty roof and rickety walls, but people come from everywhere and line up to get in because the food and the service are wonderful. When the church stops blaming its customers and starts changing its menu and its service, we'll have no trouble filling the pews.

One day, four men carried their sick friend to Jesus because he couldn't get there by himself. (Mk 2:3) They had to hold him steady, hold him tight and hold him until Jesus touched him. There it is: most people can't get to Jesus on their own, so you'll have to carry them in prayer, carry them in compassion, carry them in agreement, carry them in your car, just get them to him. Once you do, He'll do the rest. Who do you need to bring to Jesus today?

Licensing of Fr John

as

Team Rector

of the

Upper Wylde Team Ministry

near Warminster

in the Diocese of Salisbury



Wednesday 21st July at 7.30 pm

Coach leaves St Francis at 4.15 pm

St James at 4.30 pm

Cost: £10 payable in advance

Please sign up on lists at back of both churches.

(please give money in clearly named envelope)

Father John writes to say thank you for the £200 given to him in addition to the original £300. He has bought a high-tech digital camera which he is greatly enjoying.



Did Jesus use a modem, at the Sermon on the Mount?

Did Jesus use a modem, at the Sermon on the Mount?
Did He ever try a broadcast fax, to send his message out?
Did the disciples carry beepers, as they went about their route?
Did Jesus use a modem, at the Sermon on the Mount?

Did St Paul use a laptop, with lots of RAM and ROM?
Were his letters posted on BBS, at paul@rome.com?
Did the man from Macedonia send an e-mail saying "Come?"
Did Paul use a laptop, with lots of RAM and ROM?

Did Moses use a joystick, at the parting of the Sea?
Did a satellite guidance tracking system show him where to be?
Did he write the law on tablets, or are they really on CD?
Did Moses use a joystick, at the parting of the Sea?

Did Jesus really die for us, one day upon a tree?
Or was it just a hologram, amazing technical wizardry?
Can you download the live action video clip, to play on your pc?
Did Jesus really die for us, one day upon a tree?

Have the wonders of this modern age made you question what is true?
How a single man, in a simple time, could offer life anew?
How a sinless life, a cruel death, then a glorious life again,
Could offer more to a desperate world, than all the inventions of man?

If in your life, the voice of God is sometimes hard to hear,
And with other voices calling, his doesn't touch your ear,
Than set aside your laptop, modem, and all your fancy gear.
Open up your Bible, heart, and let your real Father draw near.



Columba (whom the Church commemorates on June 9th) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid 40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause.

Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years

Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.



Rosanne interviews John & Catherine Gawne-Cain

Although it's always nice to welcome new worshippers to our churches, it's even more of a pleasure when "old friends" come back through the doors, isn't it? I was therefore so pleased when John and Catherine agreed to be interviewed. Living as they do in the old cottage halfway up Beauchamp Lane, within a stone's throw of St James and Benson Cottage (a former home of theirs), one might get the impression that they are a little bit cramped. However John declared "building things" as one of life's pleasures and build he has. Extending out into a pretty courtyard garden the cottage is now a substantial home and a charming place to chat and drink coffee. Their interview was a joint one, so lets begin with John.

During the Second World War he lived in Lytham St Anne's with his mother and two younger brothers whilst his father was serving in the RAF in India. He describes himself as a "good all rounder" both in sporting and academic terms. He had no problems in passing his 11+ exams and attended Birkenhead Grammar School until his parents moved to Surrey in 1951. Two indelible memories from schooldays are that he did very little work and that he had to lose his Lancashire accent almost overnight to avoid being teased by his peers in greater London. His strongest subject was maths, which with engineering he studied to sixth form level. These subjects carried him forward to Sandhurst from

where he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers.

Catherine lived in Bedford until she was ten years old. She remembers the lovely countryside and river walks and the freedom she and her younger sister enjoyed while still so young. She began her education at a local primary school and at seven began three happy years in the prep. department of the Dames Alice Harpur School. Although she hated maths she recalls particularly the excellent craft, history and poetry lessons. On moving to Torquay, with more lovely places to walk and play, she studied at Torquay Grammar School for Girls where her first love was languages. She also played pretty good games of hockey, tennis and cricket. Her exam results in French, Latin and German led to a languages degree at the Royal Holloway College, London.

We have now reached an important moment in time for our interviewees because at a Freshers' Ball at Royal Holloway, Catherine met a certain young officer-in-training from Sandhurst. Neither of them were all that keen on dancing so they sat and talked. I suggested that it could have been love at first sight and after the briefest hesitation they both agreed. John began his course at Cambridge and the couple were married. Student life was great fun but they were now to experience a radical change. Back with his regiment, under 25 so not eligible for married quarters, stationed in Chatham,

they found themselves living "in a slum". It was there in the bitter winter of 1962-63 that their first daughter Mary was born, at home with the snow so deep that the midwife had problems cycling through the snow. To cap it all they could only manage to heat one room for themselves and their baby. A posting to Malta brought them three warmer and very happy years. Their son Adam was born out there. The return to the UK saw John as officer in charge of the Royal Engineers Mobile Display team. This involved travelling round to county shows and the like in a Land rover, towing a caravan complete with wife and two small children (baby Jane-Emma arrived the following year). His staff included two girls who ran the display team's post office and acted as willing baby-sitters. Both he and Catherine describe this as a lovely time. Two years in Germany as second-in-command of a tank regiment completed his 10-year army service.



Now it was time to finish qualifying as a civil engineer. They found a house in Henley

from where John did practical work on road building and tunnelling, got bored with the office side of the job and so took a year in Nepal helping in the construction of the East/West highway there.

And what of Catherine all this time—a Mum at home? Not a bit of it! She studied and passed exams in secretarial skills, then did a post-graduate certificate in further education to teach German to college students.

By now you may be thinking “But John went into the Church when—?” Here we begin another phase in their lives. The idea that God was calling came to him whilst still at Sandhurst. He discussed it with his senior officer and when he was asked “why?” and couldn’t find a logical answer was sent back to his military studies. Ten years later he heard a sermon which confirmed his vocation, went to see the Bishop and planned his future ordination. After his time in Cuddesdon he was ordained (in 1976) and came to live in Benson Cottage with Catherine and the family, as curate to the Revd Parry-Okeden at St Luke’s. Catherine by then was teaching in Oxford and helped to support the family financially as well as in every other way. A post as vicar of St Giles’ in Oxford followed and the family home was a huge house – No.1 Norham Gardens—filled with their own teenagers and students too. At that time John took on the role of Chaplain to mentally handicapped people in our area. Twelve years of ministry in Uffington saw him serving four parishes and as chairman of the Community Council of Berkshire. Although now retired he works as a consultant for parish clergy.

Two years ago Catherine retired from her teaching post at Brookes University, so she and John now have time for their many interests. After their countless moves (some of which I have not had space to write about), they have happily taken

up residence in their cottage where Catherine is within easy walking distance of her allotment and John can carry on “building things”.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

J: Forward, bright, enjoyed sports at school

C: A total tomboy very much encouraged by my father to swim, play cricket, hockey and tennis.

Have you any childhood memories which prompt you to say “I’ll never forget?”

J: Watching German prisoners being marshalled on Lytham station. Seeing my father harvesting his purple sprouting on his allotment with the church tower and the flag of St George in the background.

C: Watching bombs dropping in Cardington airfield and long walks by the river.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

J: Always.

C: In the third year of the sixth form I read philosophy and went off God. After I met John it all came back again.

What makes you disappointed or angry about life in the 21st century?

J: The fact that we are inevitably ruining the environment for future generations.

C: It’s marketing. There is absolutely nothing that’s free of moneymaking these days.

What do you consider the best part of modern life?

J: Communications— so many barriers are down.

C: I’m happy where I am but I look round and think “Where are things going?”

If you could change things in

a spectacular way what would you do?

J: I think it would be mutual love between people of different religions. (Catherine agreed)

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

J: Building things or reading things like philosophy.

C: Grandchildren (5)—gardening—reading anything in print particularly German—learning Japanese so that I can converse with my daughter-in-law and the more serious quizzes on TV.

What makes you laugh?

J: A sense of my own ridiculousness.

C: Topical satirical news stuff, the political charade we are living through. Basil Fawlty was funny because it was all so excruciating.

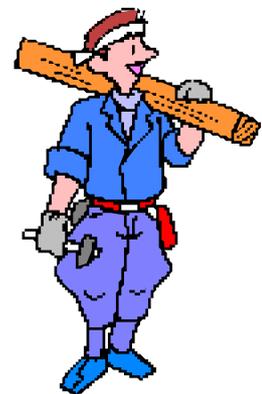
Do you have a hero or heroine, past or present?

C: A friend of my parents. She was the daughter of a German mother. She always looked after me. We edited a book together. I wish I could be as good.

Do you have plans for the future?

J: More of the same. Oh and I hope to find a greater wisdom.

C: I hope we’ll still be here. I shall put my feet up and do a bit more reading.



mothers
union



Christian care for
families worldwide

Cowley Parish Mothers' Union

Monday 21st June 7.30 pm

St James' Church

The Work of Home Start

Speaker: Gwen Ranklin



Cowley Deanery Festival

Tuesday 13th July 7.30 pm

St Francis' Church



A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the father replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

If the Earth were a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball and at the creatures in the water. The people would declare it sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and the people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know the beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love it and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it. If the earth were a few feet in diameter.

SIGNS & SYMBOLS: THE CHURCH PORCH

The front door of my house opens straight into my hallway, so when someone calls they can not only see all the clutter in my house, but all the heat rushes out into the street. My neighbour has added on a porch to his house which not only avoids those two things happening, but gives him somewhere to store his wet shoes, umbrellas, hang coats, and so on. A really useful space.

When we look at church doors and their porches it's often assumed that that is what they're for also. A place to display notices, a nice bench on which to pause during a walk on a sunny day, somewhere to leave muddy boots; even a place to display flowers or have a bowl of water for visitors' dogs to drink from.

Well, that may be how we use them today, but it's very far from their original purpose. These were working areas of the church which had great significance. You have to remember that churches up to not so very long ago were not only the hub of the community but they were often the only formal public building in that area. They carried out many of the functions that today the local Council do. So yes, public notices would have been displayed here, but also

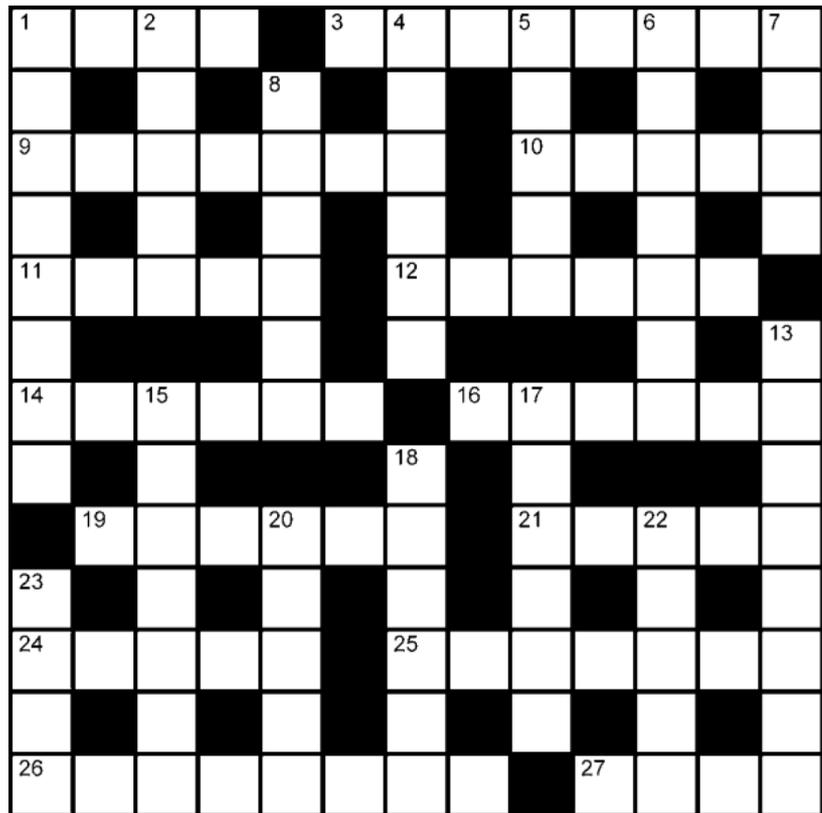
matters of business would have been carried out: executors of wills made payments of legacies, and coroners sometimes held their courts here.

Many porches have a room above them which could have been used as the local strong-room. A custodian may even have lived there, and it would therefore have a window into the church for him to be able to keep watch. Later the room may have been used as an armoury, as a place to hold church papers, a depository for wills, or a library. Being above ground they'd have been nice and dry and a bit more secure from thieves.

Sometimes the upstairs room was used for a priest to sleep in, so he could be up in time to celebrate early Mass for travellers.

This month, have a look at a church porch near you and try and work out what it was originally built for and the different uses it has been put to over the years.

June's Crossword



CLUES

Across

- 1 Bestow in large quantities (4)
- 3 A skilled worker who can inscribe designs or writing onto a surface by carving (8)
- 9 One whose work is to refine (7)
- 10 A barrier that serves to enclose an area (5)
- 11 Peace, another name for Jerusalem (5)
- 12 A military standard, especially of a single tribe (6)
- 14 Messengers, sent forth by God (6)
- 16 Home of one of the seven churches of Revelation (6)
- 19 An opening in a wall (6)
- 21 Move upwards (5)
- 24 A species of thorn shrub used for hedges (5)
- 25 Name of the son of Abraham and Hagar (7)
- 26 Abnormally large and powerful beast (8)
- 27 Keep, move, or drive animals (4)

Down

- 1 Someone who drives a herd (8)
- 2 Causing fear or dread or terror (5)
- 4 Cared for (an ill person) (6)
- 5 Son of Simon the Cyrenian, he carried the cross for Jesus (5)
- 6 Sour wine given to Christ on the cross (7)
- 7 Tall woody perennial grass (4)
- 8 Beast (6)
- 13 Marked (8)
- 15 Decoration added as a trimming or adornment (7)
- 17 Sister of Mary and Lazarus (6)
- 18 What is the title also treated as a name given to Jesus of Nazareth? (6)
- 20 Original name of Abraham (5)
- 22 An iconic representation (5)
- 23 The month of newly-ripened grain (4)

May's Solution



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>) Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship
1.00 pm	Evening Service
6.00 pm	[<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>
	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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