

# In Father Benson's Footsteps

After several false alarms, we have eventually moved into the new Cowley Rectory. In one sense it is not new. Part of the building is Benson Cottage which was home for a short time to Father Richard Benson nearly a hundred years ago. Unlike so many of his contemporaries who preferred to live in the closeted rooms of an Oxford college, Fr Benson chose to live amongst his people as Vicar of Cowley.

Behind the old cottage here in Beauchamp Lane there is a new extension comprising of a dining room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms and a shower-room. It is a sympathetic development of an old familiar Cowley landmark.



Being a listed building in a conservation area the existing building has had to be carefully renovated so as not to lose any of its characteristics. Similarly the new extension has to blend in with the existing cottage. The result is a pleasing home for our family. It has been worth the upheaval and inconvenience of the past few weeks!

In an ideal world we like to preserve the best of the old whilst embracing the challenges of the new. The Church is no different. We live in a time of great change. Many are fearful for the future. Others cling on desperately to the past. But there can be a good marriage of the two.

We value so much of our Christian Anglican heritage. Yet at the same time we know that the Church has to evolve and change if it is to relate to contemporary society. In order to conserve the best of the old and yet experience the best of the new, we need that gift of discernment to achieve the right balance.

This month we welcome Lorne Denny to our clergy team having said goodbye to Father John, to Sister Margaret Anne, and to Mark in recent months. Things are obviously going to be different, particularly as

only I am around during the week to do the necessary pastoral work. In both our churches this gives us the opportunity for members of the congregation to share in some of the

tasks of ministry often undertaken by the clergy.

I see this as an exciting time for us here in Cowley. I hope and pray that we shall discover fresh talents to enable us to continue to present the Christian faith to the people of Cowley with the same enthusiasm and confidence as did Father Benson when he first moved into Benson Cottage all those years ago.

With my best wishes,

# Chronicle

# Ministry of Healing

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

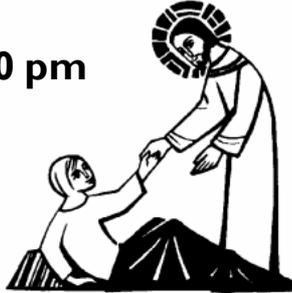
**Healing Services: 7.30 pm**

**Tuesday 2nd November**

**St Francis Church**

**Tuesday 7th December**

**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.

## Simon and Jude - 28th October

Jude the apostle and martyr warns us in his epistle that not all 'evil' comes in the form of obvious ghosties and ghoulies. He writes instead to warn the Christians of the greater danger of people who infect others with heresy and moral failure. He writes that they are nothing more than ... "blemishes on your love-feasts...feeding themselves. They are waterless clouds carried along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame, wandering stars, for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved forever.



Such dangerous people can be frightening but Jude also encourages his readers to remember "...him who is able to keep you from falling and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing...the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time and now and forever....

According to Western tradition, Jude and Simon went to preach the gospel in Persia, where both were martyred.

## Memorial Services for the Departed

**Sunday 7th November**

**St James at 4 o'clock**

**St Francis at 4 o'clock**

During this simple service, we shall sing a few well-loved hymns and pray by name for your loved ones. Lists will be available in both churches to record names to be remembered



## HOW CAN I ENDURE?

Lord, how can I endure this life of sorrow, unless you strengthen me with your mercy and grace? Do not turn your face from me. Do not withdraw your consolation from me, lest my soul becomes like a waterless desert. Teach me, O Lord, to do your will, and to live humbly. You alone know me perfectly, seeing into my soul. You alone can give lasting peace and joy.

Thomas à Kempis (1380 – 1471)

**Celebration Praise!**  
an ecumenical day exploring and resourcing  
worship

The **Marlborough School, Woodstock**

**Saturday 23rd October 2004**

The day will follow the familiar pattern of a Eucharist or a Communion Service.

- 9.45am The first part of the EUCHARIST up to the Gospel
- 10.15am An Anglican and a Methodist share a platform:  
Understanding and shaping worship; valuing tradition while encouraging change.  
The Revd Jonathan Kerry, Co-ordinating Secretary for  
Worship & Learning, Methodist Church  
The Right Revd Colin Bennetts, Bishop of Coventry,  
Member of the Church of England Liturgical Commission

10.55am Coffee/Notices

11.30am First Workshop choice

*Please refer to the workshop options. Make two choices*

1.00pm LUNCH (Bring own food; drinks provided)

1.45pm Second Workshop choice

3.15pm The EUCHARIST continues in the sports hall

*CHILDREN very welcome, with parental supervision.*

The TV is my shepherd I shall not want,  
It makes me lie down on the sofa,  
It leads me away from the faith,  
It destroys my soul,  
It leads me in the paths of sex and violence,  
For the sponsors sake.  
Yea though I walk in the shadow of my  
responsibilities  
There will be no interruption,  
For the TV is with me,  
Its cable and remote control, they comfort me,  
It prepares commercials before me in the presence of  
my worldliness,  
It anoints my head with sexism and consumerism,  
My covetousness runneth over,  
Surely laziness and ignorance shall follow me all the  
days of my life  
And I shall dwell in the house  
Watching TV forever.



*spotted by Rosanne*

**REMIGIUS d.533 -  
October 1st**

If you've ever prayed for the ill children of non-Christian friends, then you are following in the steps of Remigius.

Remigius was bishop of Reims late in the 5th century, and the king's son was ill. The queen, Clotild, was a Christian, but the king of the Franks, Clovis I, was not. Then Remigius prayed for their ailing son, and he was healed. The king was so overwhelmed with gratitude, that he decided to acknowledge and honour the Christian God.

In his enthusiasm King Clovis seems to have turned his royal household into something akin to the aftermath of a Billy Graham rally/Alpha course, for he commanded that all 3,000 members of the royal household and followers become Christians at once, and be baptised.

Under the protection of King Clovis, Remigius carried on preaching the Gospel throughout the Frankish kingdom. He did some extensive church-planting - founding bishoprics and churches - and was greatly loved by the people up to his death in Reims in 533.



# Rosanne interviews Cynthia Retter

If ever there was a person whose life has been, and still is, wrapped up in a concern for the welfare of young people that person would be Cynthia. Although when I met her for a chat she was quite prepared to talk about her early life, she constantly referred to her working life amongst the children at Larkrise Primary School and also to her enjoyment within the world of Guiding. The two are so enmeshed alongside her obvious pride in her two daughters, that I feel I need do little unravelling in order to introduce her. Not that many of you need an introduction, as she has been part of our church community since she was a small girl.

Her parents moved from Coventry to Cowley whilst she was still a baby, so she regards her 'growing up' home as Florence Park area. Her Dad was an officer in the Transport and General Workers Union and was not only involved in union matters at Cowley Works but also travelled out to areas such as Banbury and Hook Norton. Cynthia was her father's 'little girl' and she is obviously proud of the work he did.

As soon as she reached school age she attended Donnington

Infants School where she enjoyed her time being taught by the legendary Miss Salmon. She recalls along with many other people who went to Donnington the little camp beds set out in the infant hall for the rest hour each afternoon. At the age of eight she was introduced to Brownies at Cowley United Reform Church where her Mum was a member. Thus began a life long commitment to the Guiding movement. She graduated into the Girl Guides and at eleven also moved on to Temple Cowley Secondary School. A friend at school talked to Cynthia about church and took her along to St James' for evensong. They became regulars and decided to prepare for confirmation together. Fr. John Betton took their classes and the two girls were confirmed by the Bishop of Dorchester at the Parish Church. Although Cynthia stayed faithful to St Luke's and St James' she declares that her Mum was 'on a bit of a Christian mission' trying out lots of different churches.

At the age of sixteen she met David her future husband. He took her on dates to watch speedway and to the local cinemas. He was a keen hockey player and he had found a fan in his new girlfriend. By this time she was doing a secretarial course at the College of Further Education in the Cowley Road

and continuing to attend her weekly Guide meetings at the old Parish Hall. By seventeen she had passed her driving test, mostly thanks to her father who had encouraged her to drive and life was great fun.

She and David were married at St James' in 1970 and after a short spell living in Divinity Road they moved to Campbell Road. Cynthia is quite prepared to talk about the difficult times she and her husband experienced during their marriage. Though they drifted apart for a while and tried again they eventually divorced. They are now 'quite good friends' according to Cynthia and there is no animosity.

Their two daughters Heather (27) and Alison (24) are obviously the apples of their mother's eye. Both have been keen Guides since childhood and are very much 'chips off the old block' (if Cynthia will excuse the expression!) Alison is leader at 5<sup>th</sup> Cowley St Luke's company. Incidentally isn't it good to know that they have kept the old name? Heather is now working as a special needs assistant alongside her Mum at Larkside.

Cynthia is dedicated to her work with the slower learners. She began as a dinner lady but was recognised as a person with a special talent and asked

to do welfare work with children with special needs. She has been on a wide variety of training courses building up a wealth of skills. As for her Guiding career (all voluntary of course) she gained her camping permit in 1990 and has taken groups of girls to camp for the last fourteen years. She has masses of hair-raising experiences on that subject I can assure you! And I'm sure you won't be surprised to learn that she is now District Guide Commissioner. I certainly wasn't.

In these days when it is difficult to get folk to give up their spare time to work with young people it is good to know that here we have a person with dedication and staying-power.

### **How would you describe yourself as a small child?**

Quite quiet and shy. I always wanted a brother or sister. I had an imaginary friend though I also had lots of real friends because my parents always encouraged me to bring them home.

### **Have you any childhood memories that prompt you to say 'I'll never forget....'?**

I can remember my parents running the committee rooms for the local Labour Party and my first meeting with the Revd. Tony Williamson when he was a young candidate for the Cowley Ward. I remember the sight of a bouncy young man with a head of ginger curly hair; of course he had contact with my parents through the Labour Party and

Union. In later years our paths crossed again, at St Luke's this time, connected to his mission as a priest.

### **Has God been part of your life since childhood?**

Yes I would say since a child. There were bits of wavering in between but things that happen bring you back. The teacher I work with now is inspirational. She shows so much faith in God she inspires me.

### **What do you consider to be the best part of modern life?**

The advances in technology and science provided we put them to their best use. My neighbour has benefited from the advances in medical science for example and the children in school have such a wide range of tools for learning apart from the library.

### **What disappoints you about life today?**

The amount of rubbish we throw away. We certainly should do more recycling.

### **How do you like to spend you leisure time?**

Gardening (I'm a fair weather gardener). I enjoy walking. I love coastal walks especially in Cornwall and Scotland. I read anything light from Dick Francis to Agatha Christie.

### **What makes you laugh?**

I often laugh at myself because I'm very good at tripping over. And of course the things the children say.

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

I have a cousin who has great faith and I've always admired that. Once she received the last rites, came through and kept her great faith in God.

### **Do you have any ambitions for the future say in ten years time?**

It would be nice to see Heather married and settled. In ten years I shall be retired but as ever, I'll take the days as they come.



*God's biggest problem with labourers in his vineyard is absenteeism.*  
*Anon*

# Trick or Treat?

Have you ever wondered what a Christian is to make of the unseen world of evil and the occult? Where do evil spirits come from, anyway?

The Bible takes the unseen world of evil spirits very seriously indeed. It tells us clearly that evil spirits were once part of the created angelic order (Genesis 6). They were not created as evil beings, for all of God's original creation was good (Genesis 3:1). The Bible relates how a number of angels, headed by Satan, or Lucifer, rebelled against God's authority and fell (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Satan, who disguised himself as the serpent in Eden, is leader of the fallen angels, and opposes himself to God. But evil and good are not co-equal! Thus the idea of 'dualism' (belief in the equal and permanent existence of evil alongside the good) has no place in the Bible. Unlike goodness, evil has a beginning and an end. Satan's final destruction is already assured (Revelation 12:12; 20:10).

So what is the world of the occult, then? The word 'occult' comes from the Latin: *occultus*, 'secret', 'hidden', and is our intrusion into the forbidden territory of superstition, fortune telling, magic and spiritism. Its downfall one day is promised us through Jesus. His early ministry established a bridgehead against the evil unseen world: no wonder the hostile, and sometimes violent, reaction of the demons! (Mark 1:23-27; 32-34).

But Jesus had no fear of demons, and neither should you, if you are a Christian. Further, it is important not to become obsessed with the unseen world – don't let it intimidate or fascinate you. Occult films can have deeply disturbing

after-effects on people. Avoid them. A Christian has better things to think about.

While the occult world is certainly there, we are wise not to imagine, as some do, that every sin we commit, every bad habit, illness or misfortune we meet is due directly to an attack on us by Satan himself, and that therefore we need to be 'exorcised'. Terrible damage has been done in this regard by Christians who mean well but who are uninformed.



The kingdom of spirits is real, but so too is Christ's authority. Before Christ, the spirits shrink and retreat. Magic spells and charms have no power over the true Christian (provided we do not open ourselves to their influence) for "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

If ever you are frightened by anything occult, remember some sound biblical advice: resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7). But remember, a Christian has no business dealing in anything occult. All occultism is to be ruthlessly shunned (e.g. Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; 1 Samuel 28; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 8:19,20; Acts 19:18-20).

Remember: the demonic world is very real, very powerful, but it is also already doomed and defeated. (Colossian 2:15; Hebrews 2:14,15). Why? Because the death of Jesus Christ has achieved this victory.

So – be confident in Christ, but not complacent in your everyday life. Satan's kingdom is alive and well in this present world, and it will still not admit its defeat at the Cross. The final destruction of all things occult will not come until the return of Christ.

*A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him some money now, will he let us go?"*

**Statistic of the Month:  
Number of lone parents to triple**

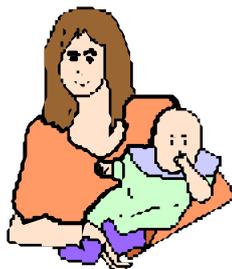
# October's Crossword

The most recent figures from the Government's General Household Survey show that the proportion of lone-parent families is set to rise from 12% of all families in 1986 to 33%, almost three times as many, by 2011. That's a huge increase over just 25 years.

Other figures show that most lone parents become such because the husband or male partner leaves. 93% of lone parents are so because of a split with their partner, and just 9% occur when the two people concerned were never living together.

The proportion of lone parents attending church is much less than in the population as a whole (1.8% to 8.0%) but this still equates to 80,000 lone parents in our churches. Hopefully they are finding love, affection and appreciation there.

*Contributed by Dr Peter Brierley,  
Executive Director, Christian  
Research.*



## October's Solution

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**Across**

- 1 Water soaked mud (4)
- 3 A stone set up by Samuel after a signal defeat of the Philistines (8)
- 9 A repository of spices (7)
- 10 A Hebrew offering, presented with an up and down motion (5)
- 11 Commander-in-chief of Saul's army (5)
- 12 A mighty hunter and the founder of Babylon (6)
- 14 Meaning a servant of God (6)
- 16 Ancient empire extending from India to Egypt (6)
- 19 Angels ascended and descended on this in Jacob's vision (6)
- 21 Preside over (5)
- 24 A sharp-pointed tip on a stem or leaf (5)
- 25 One of the two disciples with whom Jesus conversed on the way to Emmaus (7)

**Down**

- 26 Saved from the bondage of sin (8)
- 27 Detach the affections of (4)
- 1 A shipwrecked person (8)
- 2 A person who comes from a foreign country (5)
- 4 On the farther side of (6)
- 5 Seventh of the minor prophets (5)
- 6 Fervent proponents (7)
- 7 Tall woody perennial grass (4)
- 8 Decide with authority (6)
- 13 A fortified military post (8)
- 15 The hardest and most valuable of precious stones (7)
- 17 Avoid and stay away from (6)
- 18 One who divines the future (6)
- 20 Move in a graceful and rhythmical way (5)
- 22 A tree fruit (5)
- 23 Wise men saw this in the east (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

### 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>

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

### Day Off

Stephen has Friday off; Except in emergency, please try and respect this day of rest. Lorne can be contacted in the evenings and at weekends.

## PARISH DIRECTORY

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