

Becoming One

In recent weeks the Anglican Communion and the Church of England have produced reports which try to find a way forward through the vexed questions of human sexuality and women bishops. There are strong views on both sides of each argument.

It is all too easy to be assured of the rightness of our own point of view and the seeds of discontent and disunity are sown. The Church is a fragile institution. It is made up of fragile human beings.

We are all aware of our individual and collective frailty and thus our dependence upon the love of God. We share a common humanity, a humanity which can be touched by the life of God through Jesus our Saviour.

As Christian men and women we can be continually touched and transformed by the Holy Spirit who is the life and the power of God. In our struggle to discover truth we tend all too easily to side with the Pharisee rather than the tax collector in Jesus' famous parable.

"God, I thank you I am not like other people: the thieves, rogues, adulterers....."

No, we can't take on the role of the Pharisee detached from the humanity which we share. Yet the humanity which we seek to live out has been touched by the life-changing love of God. Jesus' came to show us how we might

discover fullness of life. Salvation is nothing other than wholeness.

The scriptures lead us into this truth and we are able us to discover our own transformation.

In these difficult debates which affect the Church, we seek through our reading of the

Bible to discern God's guidance. We are all sinners, we have all missed the mark, and yet Jesus shows us how we can experience God's love which will heal division. Only through Jesus can we receive the unity for which we desperately yearn.



A handwritten signature.

Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

A monthly service, alternating between St James and Sr Francis Churches

Healing Services:

**Tuesday 14th December
7.30 pm St James Church**

**Tuesday 4th January
7.30 pm St Francis 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.

WHAT KINDA TATER ARE YOU?

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands. They are called "Dick Taters."

Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work. They are called "Speck Taters."

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work. They are called "Comment Taters."

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help. They are called "Hezza Taters."

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. They are called "Emmy Taters."

Then there are those who love and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. They're called "Sweet Taters."

What kinda Tater are you?

mothers
union



Christian care for
families worldwide

Monday 15th November

12.30 pm

"My Muslim Neighbour"

The meeting begins with a Bring and Share Lunch.

Soup and dessert are provided

Non-members especially welcome.



Come and look round the new Rectory!

*Open House
and
Coffee Morning*



Saturday 20th November 10.30 - 12.30 am
any proceeds to Sobell House Day Centre!

Saint Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland - November 30th

Andrew is a good patron saint for those of you holding a Christmas party this year - and who hope you have rightly estimated the amount of food you'll need. Andrew was the disciple who, when faced with 5,000 people to feed, brought a boy to Jesus who had two small fish and five barley loaves. When Andrew wasn't being wildly optimistic with the catering arrangements, he was out fishing with brother Peter and friends James and John.

This New Testament apostle and martyr was brother of Simon Peter. He was a fisherman by trade, his home was at Capernaum. He was a disciple of John the Baptist before becoming an apostle of Christ.

In all the Gospel lists of apostles his name is among the first four; he is specially mentioned for his share in the feeding of the 5,000 and in the episode of the Greeks who wished to meet Jesus. (John 12:20-2)

It is not certain where Andrew preached the Gospel, where he died, or (even in Chrysostom's time) where he was buried. The most ancient written tradition links him with Greece; Scythia and Epirus both claimed him as

their disciple. Patras in Achaia claimed to be the place where he was crucified and preached to the people for two days before he died.

There was a notable cult in the West. His feast was universal from the 6th century; churches were dedicated to him from early times in Italy and France, as well as Anglo-Saxon England, where Rochester was the earliest of 637 medieval dedications.

After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, the Crusaders took his body to Amalfi. The despot Thomas Palaeologus gave his head to the pope in 1461. It was one of the most treasured possessions of St Peter's until it was returned to Constantinople by Paul VI.

In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross. The saltire cross (X), commonly called St Andrew's Cross, which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century at Autun. His other attribute is a fishing net.



HAND-WRITTEN ON THE WALL OF MOTHER TERESA'S ROOM

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred;
Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
Be successful anyway.
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.
What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
It never was between you and them anyway.





Rosanne interviews Douglas Craig

Do you remember the politician, Norman Tebbit suggesting that people who found themselves unemployed should 'get on their bikes' and seek employment elsewhere? Well when we chatted together the other evening, Douglas mentioned it and explained how he had, metaphorically speaking, done just that. He relocated (today's buzz word) from Edinburgh to Cowley in 1979 and is very happy that he did. Anyone who has met him will not be surprised that he springs from Scottish roots. He was born the middle child of parents as Scottish as Dundee cake or malt whisky.

His mother was a shepherd's daughter raised in a tiny country cottage who married a Paisley man who worked for the local electricity board. Their first married home was a caravan on the outskirts of Dumfries. It was here that Douglas lived for the first four years of his life along with his elder brother, Angus, until the family was allocated a home on the biggest council estate in Europe. Later a baby sister, Hilda, was born and all three children were sent in turn to face the rough-and-tumble of the local primary school. Douglas describes his early years at school as 'just brilliant'. The staff were great teachers, dedicated to getting the best from their pupils. This certainly held true in the case

of the Craig family. As each of them reached the age of twelve they took exams that qualified them to study at the Dumfries Academy, where they continued to receive an excellent standard of education. At sixteen Douglas sat his Standard Grade (G.C.E) exams doing well in French, German, English, History and Technical drawing. By the way, he told me how corporal punishment was used in schools in those days and how, in his opinion, it worked.

As a small boy he was taken, with his brother and sister to church, always by mum, never dad. The children attended Sunday school regularly and he and Angus joined the church Cub pack, later moving on to the Scouts. He describes the leaders of these groups as brilliant and holds in high esteem a certain Revd Douglas Nichol, who ran their Youth Fellowship. This gentleman each year took his group of young people up to Pitlochry to camp and initiated lots of church related activities for them. This same Douglas Nichol is now moderator of the Church of Scotland. Douglas' mum and brother both have homes near the church in Dumfries but it is now Angus who takes his mum to church.

After school Douglas did an apprenticeship with I.C.I. in the petrochemical industry. He

had a good job but asked himself 'is this all there is?' He returned to his studies at technical college and then was offered a place at Edinburgh University to read History and English Literature. He had a 'lovely time' in further education but says he found himself out of his depth. So he left college and looked around for employment. Nothing! For eight months – nothing. Then he saw an advertisement for workers for the car factory in Cowley. He applied and was called for an interview. He didn't ride his bike all the way south, he hitchhiked. He got a job, found digs in Kidlington and worked as a maintenance fitter in the factory until 1987. A large section of the workforce was laid off that year so, sadly he was, once again, looking for work.

It was about this time that his landlady threw a party and there he met Margaret, the girl who is now his wife. She was a student at Brookes University, where she studied History of Art. She went on to get her Masters' Degree and their wedding took place in a small church in Wendlebury. Douglas having found a job at Smith's Hydraulics in Witney rented a small flat in North Oxford and the couple saved hard for their own home. They moved into their present house in Annesley Road in about 1993. Their son Cameron was born three

years later and daughter Madeline arrived in 1999. Together they looked around for a church where they felt 'at home', found St James and now feel part of the family there.

After a couple more career moves, Douglas is at the moment working at Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory in Harwell, where a huge new project is underway. It is called the 'Diamond Light Source' and (putting it simply) is involved in research into the structure of materials. I suspect we are going to hear much more about this in the next few years. Douglas is finding it really exciting. Never a man to sit back and wait for life to come to him, I have a feeling that there are a good many experiences on the horizon for Douglas Craig!

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

I was very shy and struggled because of coming out of a caravan. My life was very home-centred, not much in the way of holidays, not a lot of money.

Have you any really vivid childhood memories?

I remember very fondly our first holiday in Scarborough. We went to a caravan and it was such fun to go to the parks and play on the beach.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

Yes, I'd say so. In my middle years I drifted away but He was always there for me.

What do you consider to be the best part of living in the modern world?

I think what is fantastic in modern life is that you can get about to foreign countries. You can fly to places like Spain and Greece and that seems incredible.

What disappoints you about life in the 21st century?

I don't like the 'throw away' attitude of modern society. So much lack of respect for the environment, no one seems to care.

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

I'd like life to be simpler with less rushing about and less stress for everyone.

How do you spend your leisure time?

I swim with my kids. I like walking or cycling especially along the river. I'm just taking up golf and I really enjoy tinkering with our two cars.

What makes you laugh?

My dad introduced me to Jacques Tati a long time ago and I still love his films. I also love the old cartoons like Tom and Jerry, which I watch with my children.

Do you have a hero or

heroine, past or present?



Churches Together in
Cowley and District

**ADVENT
CAROL SERVICE**

**Sunday 28th November
6.30 pm**



**St Mary & St Nicholas
Church
Littlemore**

STORY TIME

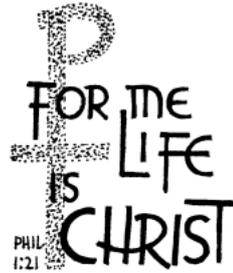
– the Church's year

On the 28th of this month, the story begins again, the story told by the Church's year, a story which takes us from birth to everlasting life. Life has many beginnings and endings, ups and downs, highs and lows and ordinary times; the Church year's reflects all this.

Advent is the beginning, with hope, faith, pregnancy; a waiting time with worries and fears of what might be. The birth at **Christmas** brings the highs of joy, peace, celebration, love, relief and delight and good news of the start of Jesus' human life. And **Epiphany** is about giving and promising, with gifts and greetings; happiness contrasted with fear and escape. Candlemass foretells the first ending.

Lent is about repentance, reflection, temptations in life and Christian response – a fresh start. It leads to **Passiontide** with its drama of abandonment, aloneness, guilt, forgiveness and deep emotion.

And so to an ending, yet this leads to another new beginning. The purple of Passiontide gives way to the gold of **Easter**: the new birth, as Jesus' divine nature becomes apparent through his risen life. Yet first there has to be the farewells and promises of **Ascension**.



in faith.

Each chapter of the Church's year is a biography of Jesus, but also a biography of us. The colours associated with the seasons remind us of this, with gold or white at new beginnings like Christmas and Easter, red at Pentecost reflecting excitement, strength and power, and green of the Sundays after **Trinity** as the colour of growth, our growth in faith, study, prayer, love and service to others.

Then comes **Pentecost**, the start of the real story of eternal life for all. We ourselves are written into the story through the long Trinity season with its reminders of grace, love, endurance: humanity changing, learning, growing

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

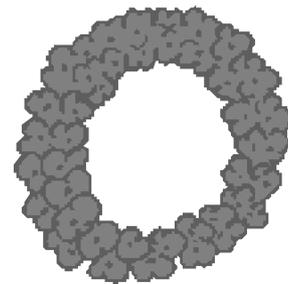
14th November

The Eucharist with the

Act of Remembrance

10.00 am St James

10.30 am St Francis



Lest we forget

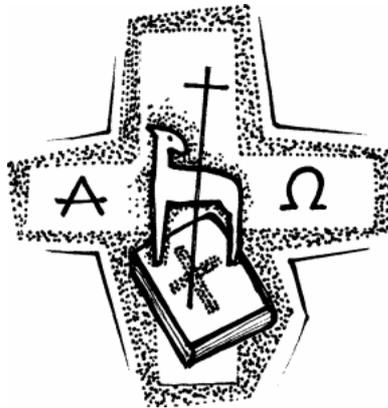
Morning Prayer

& Breakfast

St Francis Church
Saturday Mornings

9.15 am

all welcome



The number of different books needed for some services was quite overwhelming

Holocaust Day



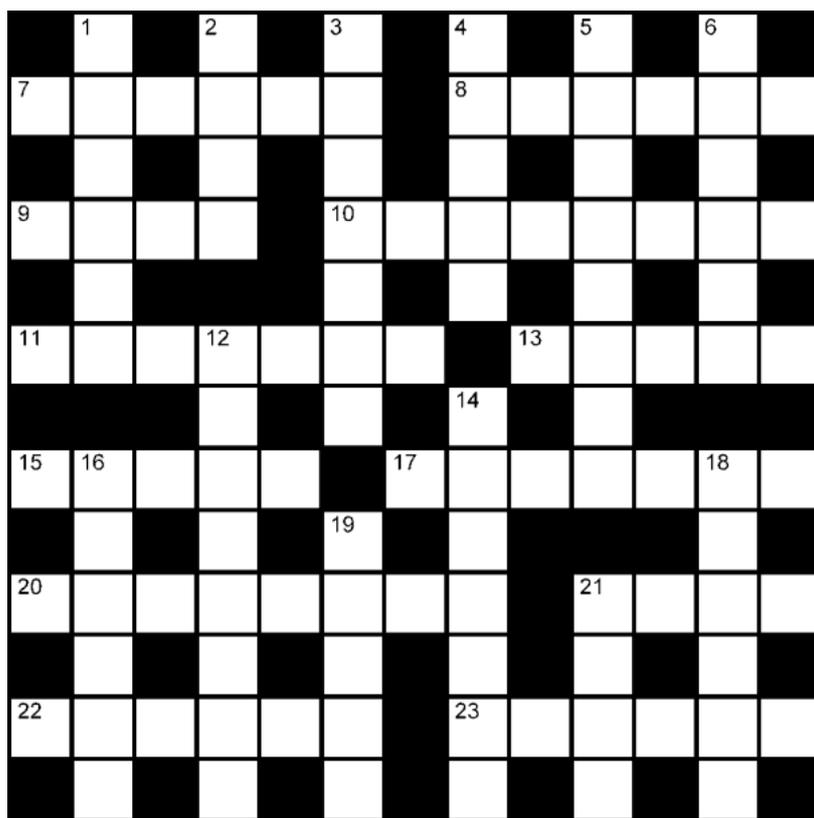
On 21 November, during the 50 days between First Fruits and Pentecost (or Weeks) there lies a more modern day on the Jewish calendar. It is Holocaust Day, Yom Ha Shoah – the Day of Calamity. Yom Ha Shoah recalls the destruction of European Jewry under the unspeakable horrors of the Nazi regime. Here is a poem written by Eva Pickova, age 12, in Auschwitz:

*My heart still beats
inside my breast
While friends depart
for other worlds.
Perhaps, it's better
– who can say? –
Than watching this,
to die today?*

October's Solution



November's Crossword



Across

- 7 Determine the place of (6)
- 8 Married, also meaning favoured and blessed of the Lord (6)
- 9 A change of position (4)
- 10 A collection of precious things (8)
- 11 Someone who speaks by divine inspiration (7)
- 13 The sacred writings of the Christian religion (5)
- 15 Members of the shepherd's flock (5)
- 17 Serious and intent (7)
- 20 Something brought into existence (8)
- 21 An indication of approval (4)
- 22 Densely wooded area (6)
- 23 A soft pale precious metal (6)

Down

- 1 Esteem or respect (6)
- 2 A type of priestly offering (4)
- 3 A person not acknowledging God (7)
- 4 Commander-in-chief of Saul's army (5)
- 5 Challenge the accuracy of (8)
- 6 A cylindrical container (6)
- 12 A star cluster in the constellation Taurus (8)
- 14 Insanity (7)
- 16 A woman consecrated or devoted to prostitution (6)
- 18 A coin of ancient Greece (6)
- 19 Marked by conspicuous religiosity (5)
- 21 Exchange for money (4)

Rosanne and Frank Butler have lots of strong little Passion flower plants which they are selling in aid of church funds at £1.50 each. If you are interested do give them a call – Oxford 453257.



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.

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