

# Alongside the poor

The plight of the world's poor has been raised in the nation's conscience through the impending meeting of the world's eight most powerful leaders in Scotland this month; along with the *makepovertyhistory* march in Edinburgh and the Live8 concert in London - also this month.

For decades we have been aware of the desperate plight of millions in what we used to call the Third World but now called the Developing World. Famines, civil wars, earthquakes have all taken their toll and many have responded out of the generosity of their pockets.

Yet it is only recently that Gordon Brown, our Chancellor of the Exchequer, has sought to raise world poverty as an urgent issue. Crippling interest payments and unfair trading arrangements, as well as corrupt governments, have seen the poor get poorer whilst we, in the west, have become rapidly more prosperous.

As with so many of these global issues, we feel so powerless - but not so powerless as the poorest in the world. A commentator recently remarked that we must ensure that poverty is as

unacceptable as slavery was in previous generations.

Central to the Jewish Christian tradition is the importance of being aware of the plight of the poor. The prophets thundered their opposition to the smugness of the faithful in the face of the need of the least fortunate.

*'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'*



As Christians we are part of a powerful

lobby which can bring real pressure to bear on our political leaders. We may not have the energy to march with the crowds in Edinburgh, but we can write to our MP, support the Fairtrade movement, contribute financially to those agencies which seek to bring relief to those in distress, and pray regularly for those in need.

Perhaps at more than any other time in recent years, we can play our collective part to make poverty history.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve'.

# Ministry of Healing

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

## Healing Services:

**Tuesday 5th July 7.30 pm**

**St Francis Church**

**Tuesday 2nd August 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.



## BECOME A BELL-RINGER

If you love the sound of church bells, and have at least some sense of timing, why not consider becoming a bell-ringer?

Church bells are incredibly heavy – ranging from six hundredweight to more than 28 hundredweight per bell - but anyone is strong enough to ring them. Ringers range from schoolchildren to teenagers, from the middle-aged to retired people. It's a wonderful pastime for breaking down the generation gap.

After you reach the ringing chamber, the practise begins. There are a lot of instructions to remember: "Don't look up, look straight ahead", "don't anticipate the sally (reaching for the stripy part of the rope, the sally, too soon)", "get closer to the rope", "flick your wrists away", "one foot a little ahead of the other", "pull down slowly – no, too fast, too fast", "use your elbows". Etc, etc!

You don't need strength, once you've got the bell going, it is just a matter of keeping the rhythm of your pull steady on the rope. There is no strain on the back: you simply stand straight and relaxed. If you have the all-important sense of timing, the rest comes with practise. Some people master the art in as little as four months; others take almost a year. But one day, when you least expect it, you'll find you've 'got it' at last. A bit like learning to ride a bicycle!

We have no ringers from the congregation at St James. If you are interested in learning to ring, please have a word with Gwen and we can organise lessons!



## Artistes at St Francis' Music Hall

Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June saw another evening of song with Thelma and her group from St. Francis. Using music mainly written in the 1890's for music hall artistes, the small band of enthusiastic (rather than note-perfect) singers led with verses and encouraged full participation from the audience for the choruses.



Fancy dress was optional for all – the Artistes were in full regalia – with hats to rival Ascot both in the audience and on the front line!

It was a very enjoyable evening and requests were made for further song evenings from different decades. It raised £114 towards the Heating Fund. This was somewhat ironic considering how warm the evening was!

Thank you every one for coming and raising a happy noise!

DP

## Caught out!

The wee lad was obviously not paying attention during the Bible story. "Robert" said the teacher sternly, "Can you tell me how God knew Adam and Eve had eaten the forbidden fruit?" Robert frowned hard; then he beamed. "Please, Miss. It was because God saw the peelings!"



## WHAT ABOUT MOTHERS, THEN?

The following are answers given by young school-age children to the given questions:

*Why did God make mothers?*

1. She's the only one who knows where the scissors are.
2. Think about it. It was the best way to get more people.
3. Mostly to clean the house.
4. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

*How did God make mothers?*

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic, plus super powers, and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mum just the same like He made me. He just used bigger parts.

*Why did God give you your mother and not some other mum?*

1. We are related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mums like me.

*What ingredients are mothers made of?*

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

*What kind of little girl was your mum?*

1. My mum has always been my mum and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

*How did your mum meet your dad?*

1. Mum was working in a store and dad was shoplifting.

*What did your mum need to know about dad before she married him?*

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like, is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer? Does he make at least £15,000 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

*Why did your mum marry your dad?*

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mum eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My gran says that mum didn't have her thinking cap on.

*What makes a real woman?*

1. It means you have to be really bossy without looking bossy.

*Who's the boss at your house?*

1. Mum doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because Dad is such a pratt.
2. Mum. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mum is, but only because she has a lot more to do than Dad.

*What's the difference between mums and dads?*

1. Mums work at work and work at home, and dads just work at work.
2. Mums know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller and stronger, but mums have all the real power, because that's who you have to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's.

*What does your mum do in her spare time?*

1. Mothers don't have spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

*What's the difference between mums and grandmas?*

1. About 30 years.
2. You can always count on grandmothers for money for sweets. Sometimes mums don't even have money on them.

*Describe the world's greatest mum*

1. She would be able to make broccoli taste like ice cream.
2. The greatest mum in the world wouldn't make me kiss my fat aunts.
3. She'd always be smiling and keep her opinions to herself.

*Is anything about your mum perfect?*

1. Her teeth are perfect, but she bought them from the dentist.
2. Her casserole recipes. But we hate them.
3. Just her children.

*What would it take to make your mum perfect?*

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd dye it, maybe blue.

*If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?*

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mum smarter -- then she would know my sister did it and not me.



# Rosanne interviews Ruth Goodwin

Saddened as I am by the new wave in Cowley, namely the demise of the small front gardens, it was with joy that I opened Ruth's gate where I found a neat 'real garden'. The influx of gravel and paving is of course mainly the fault of the car and Ruth doesn't own one. She's a walker, a cyclist and a devotee of public transport.

She greeted me and offered me a cuppa. As she took me through to her kitchen to fill the kettle the view I got from her kitchen window caught my breath. I don't want to turn this into a 'Gardener's World' article but I must tell you a little about her garden, as I feel it reflects the personality of the lady herself. Of course this is the loveliest time of year for flowers and there were drifts of those but she has a lily pond with newts, huge pots of bamboo, roses over an arch and an apple tree hung with bird feeders. Her small refuge is full of wildlife and she told me of foxes, hedgehogs and recently a roe deer which have all visited it. Backing onto Florence Park as it does she has a backdrop of tall trees and shrubs. Baby birds, just fledged, were everywhere.

In conversation with Ruth, I was fascinated to hear about her early childhood in Nigeria, where her father, Canon John Goodwin and mother Millicent, brought up their young family whilst doing

missionary work there. It was most interesting to 'meet' John and Millie from a daughter's point of view. Ruth remembers, with affection, Agnes, the lady who helped keep an eye on her and her younger sister and brother. With their parent's encouragement they were allowed to play outside almost all day long. The aroma of any kind of exotic fruit takes Ruth straight back to those happy days under the trees at the Nigerian mission. Her mother undertook her early education, both academic and religious and it was then, as a very small girl that her relationship with God began. It was even arranged that she would learn first hand how cotton was grown and picked. She recalls unravelling the cottonseed balls and spinning them into thread.

When Ruth was six the family moved to Oxford where John became Vice-Principal of Ripon Hall. It was in these lovely grounds that she experienced what she describes as a 'most wonderful childhood' again largely due to the fact that she and her siblings were allowed to wander at will. They climbed trees, made camps in the wild areas and gazed at wildlife in the lake. There was no edginess about the children getting into dangers, it was just left to common sense.

At twelve the next move was

into the Rectory of the beautiful Oxfordshire village of Merton, where John took up the living. It was here that she grew into her teenage years, with pets, ponies and friends in the village. Her parents were incredibly modern, never too restrictive, giving her freedom and trusting her implicitly to be home by 11pm. When it was time to say goodnight to the boyfriend at the end of the lane John would flash the outside light!

At school, first at Botley primary and then the comprehensive in Bicester, Ruth slotted into the top groups. She declares that she is not naturally academic and yet after some persuasive questioning, she admitted that she is good at languages and does indeed speak fluent German and French (her favourite). She told me, self effacingly that she 'fell into' a teaching career, training at college in Bristol. I can assure you that it takes a lot of hard work and some ability to 'fall into' teaching! She taught in a nursery school in Nottingham after qualifying and enjoyed the



relationships she had with the staff and small pupils. However she took time out to work at Lee Abbey, near London, and it was there she met her husband to be, a divorced clergyman who had left his parish. He took up a teaching post in Germany and she very much in love followed him, married him and later their baby daughter Katie was born. They lived initially in Bavaria and it was there that Ruth developed her love of crisp mountain air, of Austria and Northern Italy, of anywhere where there is snow, icicles and the incredible stillness. Her idea of heaven is walking in the mountains, which she does with her sister on favourite holidays.

Sadly her marriage didn't work out, even after she and her husband returned to Britain, so after much soul-searching they divorced. Ruth and Katie left Scunthorpe where they had been living and came back to Oxford. Her parents and her sister, whom she describes as her best friend, were a great support.

Now settled in her charming home with 19-year-old Katie for company Ruth is as busy as she ever was. Her work as a college scout at Queen's College brings her into contact with young people, many of whom stay in touch even after university. Katie herself will be off to university in the autumn, but Ruth is one of those fortunate people who is equally happy with company or on her own, especially on a fine day sitting in her lovely garden.

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

Quite shy. Outdoorsy – with a great curiosity in wild things.

### **Have you any childhood memories you would like to share with us?**

I remember catching newts in the lake at Ripon Hall and watching butterflies. One winter we had enough snow to make a snow pony. We put a cloth over it for a saddle and had a bit of string for a bridle. That is a fantastic memory.

### **Has God been part of your life since you were a child?**

Yes. I can remember when I was about five or six in Nigeria having a little hymn book (Ancient and Modern). God was part of my life even then and I've never doubted his existence.

### **What do you consider is best about life in the 21st century?**

Other countries are so accessible.

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

Humankind is able but not willing to share out the

resources of God's earth in order to eliminate poverty

### **If you could change something in a spectacular way what would you do?**

Eradicate all preventable diseases.

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

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, because of his work on truth and reconciliation in South Africa. It's a shame that other world leaders can't learn from him.

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

My garden, reading fiction, watching tennis on television, walking (especially in the mountains) dancing, going to the theatre or a good film.

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

I prefer to be happy so just about anything including myself.

### **Do you have any plans or ambitions for the future?**

I would like to still be healthy, to know that Katie is happy and settled and I'd like to still be living in Oxford.

## **ST JAMES PATRONAL FESTIVAL**

**Sunday 24th July 6.00 pm**

## **PATRONAL EVENSONG**

Preacher: The Venerable JULIAN HUBBARD,  
Archdeacon of Oxford  
*followed by Strawberries & Wine  
in the Rectory Garden*



# 10 July – SEA SUNDAY

## remembering seafarers worldwide

Sea Sunday has an extra significance as this year is SeaBritain 2005, a national celebration of our maritime heritage, and also the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar which will be the highlight of the festivities.

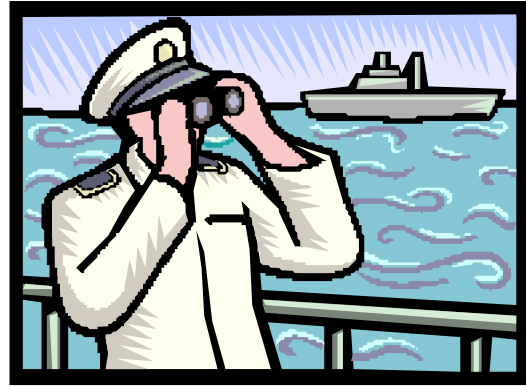
In Richard's Bay, South Africa, The Mission to Seafarers chaplain Jaco Dryer remembers the night a seafarer walked into the seafarers' centre chapel and poured out his pain and anger.

“We ministered to him, prayed with him and cried with him,” said Jaco. “He walked out that night uplifted with new hope in his heart. When I saw him the next day on his ship he couldn't stop thanking us for being there for him.”

In Dunkerque, chaplain Phil Hiscock was asked by a ship's master if he could buy a church candle. “I was happy to give him one of ours,” said Phil, “even more so when he explained about the regular prayers at 1800 hours on Sundays and Wednesdays that he held on board. I arranged to visit and it was good to have prayer and fellowship with him.”

For 34 days, sometimes twice a day, the Mission's Bahrain chaplain Victor Salve visited a seafarer in hospital as he recovered from heart surgery. He kept the seafarers' family, who were not able to be with him, assured of his progress and well-being before and after surgery.

These stories are examples of how The Mission to Seafarers shows God's love to



seafarers in a ministry supported by the prayers of parishes in the UK and overseas.

On Sea Sunday, July 10, congregations can give thanks for the contribution that seafarers make in all our lives by remembering and praying for seafarers, their families and those who serve them.

Sea Sunday is jointly organised by The Mission to Seafarers and its kindred societies, the Apostleship of the Sea (Roman Catholic) and the British & International Sailors' Society (interdenominational).

The Mission to Seafarers (formerly The Missions to Seamen) is a missionary society of the Anglican Church. It cares for the practical and spiritual welfare of seafarers of all races and creeds in 230 ports throughout the world. Working through a network of chaplains and staff, on average each year it makes 71,400 ship visits and welcomes 602,000 seafarers to its centres, visits 900 seafarers in hospital and helps in around 1,000 justice and welfare cases.

For more details: [www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org)

## Spiritual hunger

Eternal Trinity, You are like a deep sea,  
in which the more I seek, the more I find;  
and the more I find, the more I seek You. ...  
You so fill the soul that it ever continues to hunger and thirst for You,  
desiring You, eager in Your Light, to see You are THE LIGHT.

*St Catherine of Siena*



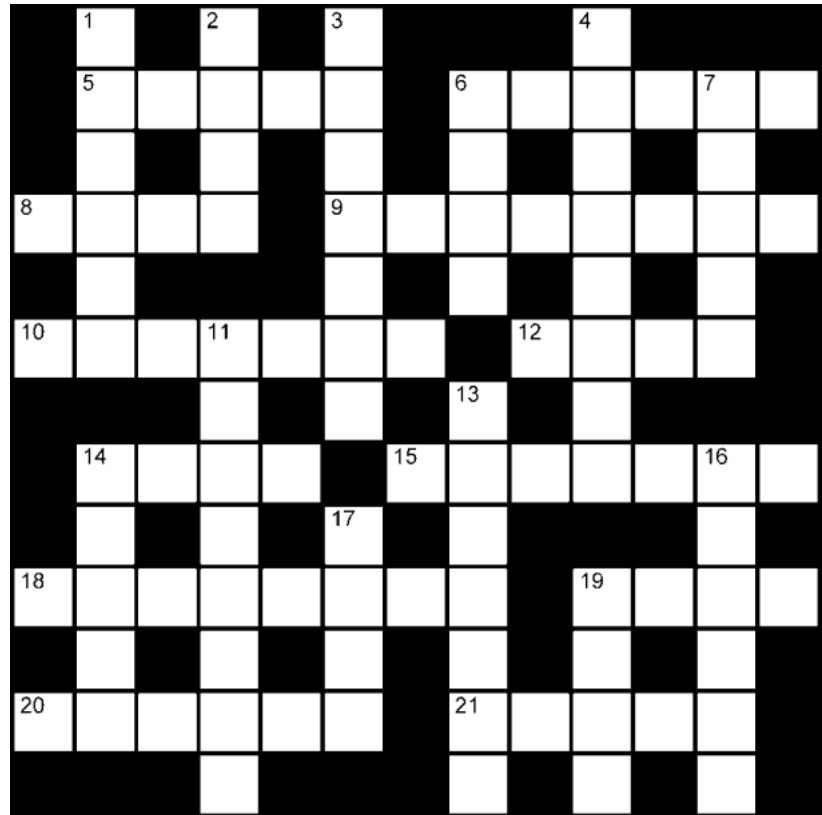
## YOUR VALLEY GATE

One of the ancient ways into Jerusalem was through the valley gate. And at some point in each of our lives, we will have a 'valley experience'. No one leaps from peak to peak throughout life. Sometimes all we can do is just 'walk and not faint' (*Isaiah 40:31*).

But there is help promised to each of us: 'They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.' God will allow us to walk through situations in life that bring us to a place of total dependence on him.

This is not to destroy us, but to help us to grow our faith in him. For He promises: "The Lord himself goes before you, and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (*Deuteronomy 31:8*).

# July's Crossword



### Clues Across

- 5 Later (5)
- 6 The wool of a sheep (6)
- 8 Writhe (4)
- 9 Jewelry worn around the wrist (8)
- 10 A building where performances or shows can be presented (7)
- 12 See (4)
- 14 A plant having trumpet-shaped, scented flowers (4)
- 15 City taken by Israelites in the book of Joshua (7)
- 18 Conjugal infidelity (8)
- 19 Certain (4)
- 20 Warranting only temporal punishment (6)
- 21 Constellation of the hunter (5)

### Clues Down

- 1 He refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab (6)
- 2 Particle (4)
- 3 The practice of offering something (usually money) in order to gain an illicit advantage (7)
- 4 Large beast (8)
- 6 Level (4)
- 7 Either side of the face (5)
- 11 An exclamation of praise or joy (8)
- 13 The chief city of ancient Mesopotamia (7)
- 14 Accommodate (5)
- 16 A lightweight cord (6)
- 17 Yielded to temptation or sin (4)
- 19 Vessel (4)

## June'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> )
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>
	10.00 am	Toddler Group – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</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>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist - <i>St Francis</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.

### 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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