

Thanks and Praise!

My family and I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome we have received. We are grateful to have come to a place in which people know and care for one another so well. You have made it easy for us to feel 'at home'. This year, I will be in the Parish on Wednesdays without baby Felicity and would love to accept invitations to visit with you. Other days are fine too, if you are happy to get to know Felicity as well!

During our Sunday worship, I have been thinking about the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer which is familiar to us all:

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

At this point, the Priest is instructed to praise God for his mighty acts. He recalls the wonderful things God has done for us, His people. These

include praising God for creating all things and forming us in His image, for redeeming us through Jesus and for sustaining us through the life-giving Spirit.

When I see this instruction, I think not only of those mighty acts of God which happened long ago, but also of those which we see in our lives and in the life of the church.. Though not on the

scale of parting the Red Sea, or knocking down the walls of Jericho, we can still praise and thank God for the good things he gives us. I think of how God loves, comforts and sustains us through difficult times. I think of how He

gives friends and family to us to encourage us. I think of how He gives the Spirit to heal and to guide us..

Through the past month, I have heard many people at St James' speak of the 'mighty acts of God' in their lives and in the life of this church. I look forward to worshipping with you and to hearing more stories of the works of God in Cowley over the years.

Beth



Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

A monthly service - please note earlier starting time

Healing Services:

Wednesday 3rd December 7.00 pm

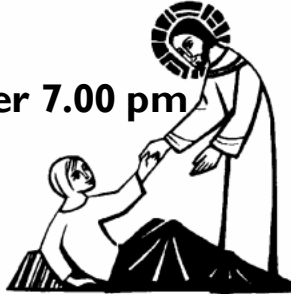
St James Church

Thursday 5th January

7.00 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.



November 25 Catherine of Alexandria

Catherine is thought to have been a noble girl who lived in the 4th century. She was persecuted for her Christianity, and despised marriage with the Emperor because she was a 'bride of Christ'. According to the legend, Catherine was no push-over intellectually, either: she disputed successfully with 50 philosophers who were called in to convince her of the errors of Christianity.

Catherine protested against the persecution of Christians by Maxentius, and then she herself was tortured: broken on a wheel (later called Catherine wheel), but the machine broke down, injuring bystanders. Catherine was then beheaded.

This legend strongly appealed to the Middle Age imagination. Catherine became the patron of young girls, students, philosophers, nurses and craftsmen such as wheelwrights, spinners and millers.

In England 62 churches were dedicated to her, and 170 medieval bells still bear her name.

'Lives', poems, miracle plays, stained-glass windows, panels and paintings have all been done in Catherine's honour.



ST JAMES TODDLER GROUP

We hope that the new toddler group will be running by January on Tuesday mornings in the Church Centre. In the meantime, we would love to receive donations of toys, books and equipment to help us get started. They do not need to be new, but should be in working order and in good condition. We're looking for baby toys (rattles, soft balls, fabric books, washable play mats, etc.), toddler toys (picture books, puzzles, Duplo and stickle bricks, dolls, teaset, play food, train set, soft balls, etc.) as well as musical instruments (shakers, tambourines, drums, bells, etc). Please contact Lorna Hind (427523) or Beth (249665) if you are able to help.

There will also be a competition (with a prize!) to name the the new toddler group. Please put your suggestions in the box at the back of St James (include your own name) or give them to Lorna or Beth. (Other toddler groups in the city are: Sparklers, Noah's Ark, Sunflowers, Toddle-in, Tiddlers, Little Sharks)



NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER PCC

The PCC received reports from the Treasurer and the Church Committees.



The response to the Christian Giving Initiative had been very disappointing.

The Treasurer expressed her concern that setting aside monies given for particular purposes our general fund is lower than it was last year.

The PCC heard from St. James' Church Committee that the new Church Centre is now complete. All the furnishings and equipment had been provided out of a special fund and through donations.

A total of 1800 Alpha leaflets had been circulated.

Money-raising for a new heating system is a major concern at St. Francis' and ways and means were very fully discussed.

Helen Doling has been appointed Booking Officer. Faults on the outside of the building are to be investigated.

Having prepared a Parish profile our representatives attended a Deanery meeting to continue work on the mapping exercise. Its purpose is to organise the area into clusters of Parishes, each sharing its strengths for the benefit of the whole group.

There was concern that the regular giving in the Parish is inadequate to cover our ongoing expenses. The PCC agreed that many of us had not realised the expenses involved in running the churches week by week and perhaps we should be made more aware.

A PCC Study Day is planned for 26th November.



ST ANDREW'S DAY - 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 1 2:20-2)



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.





Rosanne interviews Alison Holden

Do you know how it feels to be sitting on cloud nine? Well I can assure you that our interviewee this month does and the last time I spoke to her she'd been there for twenty-four hours and what's more there were no signs of her coming down! Let me explain. Coincidentally, just two days after I interviewed her for 'The Chronicle', it was necessary to put on my school governor's hat, as part of the panel deciding who should be appointed the new Head teacher of St Christopher's primary school. (One of the three successful church schools in our parish). Alison as you've probably guessed by now was offered the post and shed tears of delight when she was told. Make no mistake, she is taking on a position, which will make endless demands on her time, energy, patience and managerial skills, and yet, as you will note at the end of this article, she has fulfilled a life's ambition even before her fortieth birthday.

The daughter of an Anglican clergyman, her childhood involved a series of moves as her father's calling demanded. She and her younger brother were born in Burnley and their early school years saw moves to three different venues, in Yorkshire, Sussex and Surrey. Later the family moved to Middlesex and then went to live in Halifax. Asked what was

the hardest part of all this upheaval Alison cited the move from the South of England back to the North. She was accused by her peers of 'talking posh' because by this time her accent had changed. She did in fact suffer quite a lot of bullying but in her positive way she declares that makes her very aware of what children in her care might be going through in a similar situation.

Her ambition from a very early age was always to teach, so after her secondary schooling in Halifax it had to be university. She chose Liverpool and describes her time there as 'just brilliant'. At school she shone at sports and maths but her first and abiding love is music. As a six year old she became fascinated with the family piano, so her mother decided that it was not too soon to find a good piano teacher. She took to it like a duck to water and never found the endless practice a chore. She soon began to teach herself the recorder (by this time the strange dots and lines on the page could be read as music) and when she was nearly eight she was offered and grasped with glee, the opportunity to learn the violin at school. Later in life Alison took to brass band music. Her initial instrument was the flugel horn. After being introduced to Ken Membury, conductor of our local Jubilee Brass, she

then played both euphonium and tenor horn. Being a 'people person' she found the social aspect of life with the band as much fun as all that music!

After university she went home to live. Home by then was the rectory in Yarnton, where her father's ministry had taken him. It was time to take on her first teaching post and this she found at Caldicott village school. After five happy years she moved on to Barley Hill, then the biggest primary school in the county. Whilst there she studied for and achieved a masters degree in education. Other changes in her life were afoot though and when major heating and plumbing work was on going at Barley Hill, Alison's classroom seemed to be a right of way for the contractors. One young man seemed to walk through rather a lot and found excuses to speak to her especially before and after school hours. Michael however was shy and their romance progressed at first through notes left on each other's car windscreens! One meeting at the weekend led to another and just over a year later they were married and set up home in Dene Road and planned a family.

The next few years were some of the most disappointing in Alison's young life as she and Michael were told that they

were unable to have a baby. Undaunted they launched into I.V.F. treatment and after a few heart breaking set-backs are now the proud parents of Emily, born in 2000 and twins, Catherine and Jessica who arrived in 2003. Alison calls her daughters her little miracles.

It was during these busy years that she applied for and was appointed into the post of deputy head teacher at St Christopher's School. Such a position demands an organised life, especially with a home and family not to mention playing the organ for her father's church. She taught herself to move from piano to church organ when a regular organist at Yarnton could not be found. And now she is a head teacher with even more responsibilities. She is facing the prospect with delight, knowing she will be doing a job she loves. With Michael's and her parents' support and with the joy of watching her three daughters grow up she will be fine. I for one wish her many more happy years in teaching.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Happy, I had the usual brother/sister squabbles with Andrew. My Mum always encouraged me to have friends round to tea. (I'm still in touch with my childhood friends even now).

Have you any childhood experiences you'll never forget?

I'll never forget the day my brother cut his right ankle on

some glass in Wisley Lake. He was put in the front of the car and I was shoved in the back. My mother drove to the hospital like the wind. I was only 3 ½.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

Yes from the day I was born.

What do you consider the best thing about modern life?

Modern technology and the quality of life it provides.

What disappoints you or makes you angry about life today?

Neglect of fellow humans, lack of respect, people who are negative and cause misery for misery's sake- vandals for example.

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

Make everyone positive, happy and content with what they have.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Taking the children swimming, a good book at bedtime (a good modern novel and of course Gervais Phinn), listening to all kinds of music and occasional trips to the theatre.

What makes you laugh?

I love good comedy, a good joke, the classic comedy programmes such as 'Open All Hours', and 'One Foot in the Grave' (which reminds me of my Dad!).

Have you a hero or heroine past or present?

Only one person – my mother.

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

I see myself being the Head teacher of a very successful primary school somewhere in Oxfordshire.

(R.B. Now you see what I mean about fulfilling her life's ambition!).



The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

George Burns

CHANGES AT SAINT JAMES

With the building of the new Church Centre, there will be a few changes to the weekly pattern



from the 15th November:

- **Thursday 9.30 am Eucharist changes to Tuesday at 12.00 pm.**

This will enable those who find an early start difficult more time to get ready

- A new **Drop-In Lunch Club in the Church Centre on Tuesdays** from 12.30 pm:

soup, sandwiches, cake and drinks will be served in the Church Centre for a modest charge. Please bring along friends and neighbours.

We will need volunteers to make the soup and sandwiches on a monthly rota basis. We shall also have a cake rota for people to make cakes also on rota basis. If you can help, please contact Christine Woodman (778078) who is coordinating the Lunch Club rotas or Gwen.

You are warmly invited

OFFICIAL OPENING AND DEDICATION

OF THE

SAINT JAMES CHURCH CENTRE

BEAUCHAMP LANE

by

The Right Revd Richard Harries

Bishop of Oxford

7 o'clock

Friday 25th November



MOTHERS' UNION



Monday 21st November at 2.30pm

in the Church Centre

Enjoy making Christmas Cards with Diana Pope

Monday 19th December at 2.30 pm

in the Church Centre

Christmas Service and Tea

WHERE IS YOUR LIFE JOURNEY TAKING YOU?

Can you imagine boarding a plane for your dream holiday and the pilot's voice says: 'Welcome on board. After take-off, we'll be serving you a meal and we'll do all we can to make your flight enjoyable. However, I need to tell you – we have no final destination. So we are just going to keep flying until we run out of fuel and drop into the ocean.'

No matter how wonderful the journey is, what's the point, if there's no destination? And yet many people live their lives like this. They concentrate only on having the best 'journey' that they can, on travelling first class all the way. But they never stop to consider where the journey is taking them – what their inevitable end will be.

Death is the end of our journey here on earth, but it need not be the end of YOUR journey. God does not want you to end your life in death. He wants it to be the threshold of an eternity of peace and love in his presence. Jesus is the way to this truth and life, and he holds out that 'ticket' to you. A journey with a destination in mind is better than a journey that will simply...end... one day.

St Paul knew where he was going. In fact, he couldn't wait to "depart and be with Christ, which is better by far..." (Philippians 1:23)



THE TWENTY AND THE FIVE

A well-worn five-pound note and a similarly distressed twenty-pound note arrived at the Bank of England to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.



The twenty-pound note mused: "I've had a pretty good life. Why I've been to London and Las Vegas and Hong Kong and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

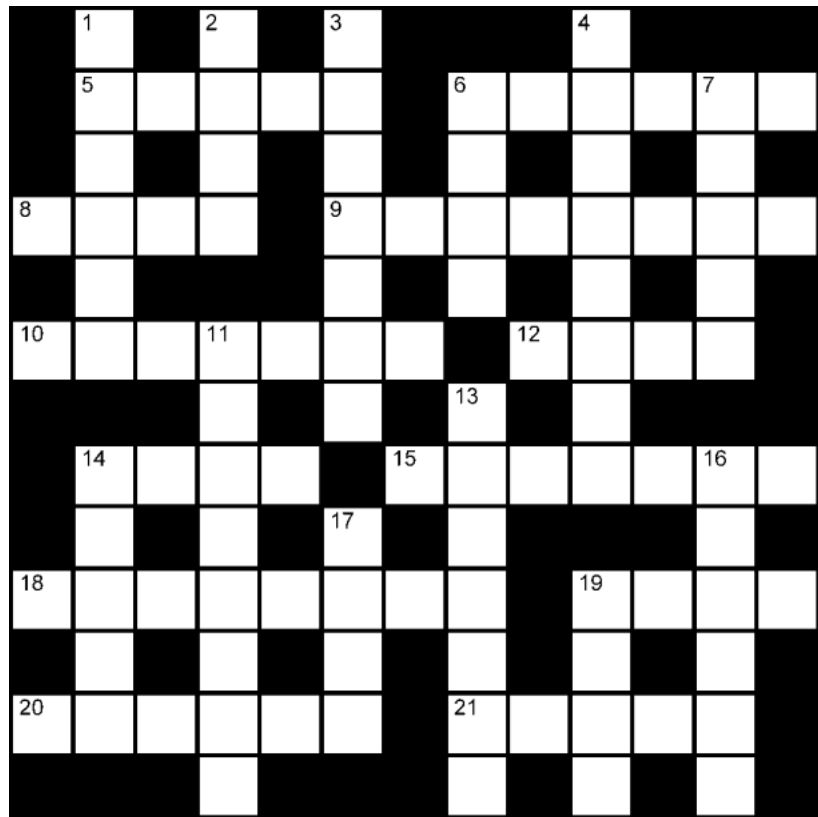
"Wow!" said the five-pound note. "You've really had an exciting time!"

"So tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been?"

The five-pound note replied, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Anglican Church, and once even to the United Reform Church..."

The twenty-pound note interrupted, "What's a church?"

November's Crossword



Clues Across

- 5 Evergreen tree of the Mediterranean (5)
- 6 Be in an agitated emotional state (6)
- 8 Small velvety-furred burrowing mammal (4)
- 9 Encroachment (8)
- 10 Someone who speaks by divine inspiration (7)
- 12 The capital of Edom (4)
- 14 Ascended (4)
- 15 Prop up (7)
- 18 Well known (8)
- 19 Fewer (4)
- 20 Home city of the tabernacle until the ark fell into the hands of the Philistines. (6)
- 21 Long-necked wading bird (5)

Clues Down

- 1 Hue (6)
- 2 Aspect (4)
- 3 Animal skin (7)
- 4 Unable to manage independently (8)
- 6 Pace (4)
- 7 Prophet, son of Beerli (5)
- 11 Something that can be done (8)
- 13 Free from error (7)
- 14 The limit of capability (5)
- 16 Celebration of the Resurrection (6)
- 17 Bowl (4)
- 19 Jacob's first wife (4)

October'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>
	12.00 pm	Eucharist - <i>St James</i>
	12.30 pm	Drop-In Lunch - <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <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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