

Thank You!

July 31st, 1995 was a memorably hot summer's day. It was the day I came for an interview in Cowley parish for the post of Team Rector. Some people claimed the interview was fixed! But not everyone on the interview panel thought I should come! Still all that is history.

That hot summer's day lead-up to an incredibly icy cold winter's night when I was

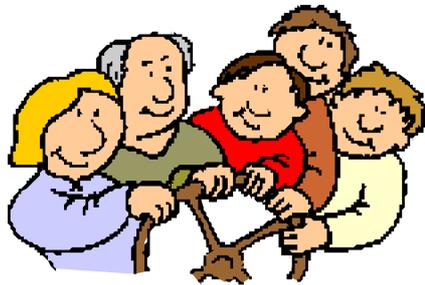
licensed by Bishop Richard in a St James Church which would have been more suited to Iceland than the United Kingdom!

The years that followed have been some of the happiest which Sharon and I have enjoyed during my ministry. Perhaps it is because I am older and wiser, but we have felt the congregations at St James' and St Francis' to be our friends.

We have valued the support and the kindness which so many people have shown to our children and to my late father, Bill. I have particularly enjoyed working with my colleagues Father John, Father Peter, Vernon, Sister Margaret Anne, Mark, Beth and Michael. Our churches have changed in many and varied ways but perhaps the most key transformation is the evolution of collaborative ministry rather than the outdated notion of "Father

knows best" - a tradition which has led many a church into dangerous and isolated waters.

We are living in a world which has itself evolved so much in the last 10 years. Secularism abounds yet underneath lies a deep thirst for the spiritual. The Church is called to proclaim afresh the timeless gospel of God's love for his world.



Sharon and I have felt privileged to serve you these past few years. We now are called to move on but the Church in Cowley remains, as it has done for nearly a 1000

years, a witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ which can transform and change both individuals, communities, and nations.

Thank you for your love, thank you for your friendship, thank you for your prayers. Our prayer for you is that the Lord will continue to bless and guide you in all that you do in the years ahead.

With all my love,

Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

A monthly service alternating between St James and St Francis Churches

Healing Services:

Thursday 6th July 7.30 pm

St Francis Church



No service in August

Thursday 7th September 7.00 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.

The Senility Prayer

*God grant me the senility
to forget the people I never liked anyway,
the good fortune to run
into the ones that I do,
and the eyesight to tell the difference.*



NOTES FROM THE JUNE PCC

Concern was expressed that as a Parish we had fallen behind with our mission giving and this is being dealt with.

A Deanery Synod representative described a talk on a theological response to climate change and the need to act responsibly in our use and care of the created world.

New signatories for the Parish Accounts were agreed. The procedure for money counting after services was discussed.

The PCC recommended that Alan Howell should be authorised to administer the chalice at Holy Communion.

A study course is planned to start in September at St. Francis' Church following the Thursday Eucharist.

The installation of a new boiler and new radiators at St. Francis' is likely to happen soon. The PCC decided that a fresh application should be made accordingly to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Stephen described the arrangements for the interregnum and the procedure for appointing a new Team Rector.

The PCC passed a resolution that we support Council policy regarding the safety of memorial stones in St. James' churchyard.

GRADUATION

Lizzie Hartley graduated in Durham Cathedral at the end of June.....

There were so many graduates waiting to receive their degrees that day, that speed was of the essence. Presenting their diplomas, therefore, the Chancellor simply smiled and said: "Congratulations, keep moving." It's actually good advice for all of life, and for your Christian life as well.

If you've discovered the reality of God's love for yourself, you deserve congratulations, for in a very real sense, *you have arrived...but keep moving!* - there is so much *more* that God has in store for you! Paul in 2 Timothy says "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. *Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day....*" So, wherever *you* have reached in your own faith pilgrimage, *congratulations, but keep moving!*





FAREWELL EUCHARIST

for Stephen, Sharon & their family

Sunday 23rd July
11 o'clock (*note later time*)

followed by a lunch in the Church Centre

Stephen will be **Licensed** by the Bishop of Reading as
Team Rector of the Hermitage Team Ministry in
St Mark's Church, Cold Ash

near Thatcham on

Wednesday 6th September at 7.30 pm

A coach will be going from the parish to support
Stephen and Sharon as they begin
their new ministry.



Stephen and Sharon's New Address

from August 15th will be:

The Rectory
High Street
Hermitage
THATCHAM
RG18 9ST

Tel: 01635 202967



THE WISDOM OF THE NOT-SO-YOUNG-ANYMORE

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
3. I finally got my head together; but now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...
5. If all is not lost, where is it?
6. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
7. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
8. Only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
9. If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.
10. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter...I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm here after!





Rosanne interviews Stephen as he leaves Cowley

As many of you knew I often begin my interviews for the Chronicle by asking what brought you to Cowley? However, to put that question to Stephen seemed a bit silly. Was it a career move? Or was it that we needed a new rector perhaps? Well, yes to both of these but most importantly it was a God driven decision that brought him here. This fact became increasingly obvious as he continued talk. Those of us who have observed, or even been part of the ways Stephen has effected changes within our parish don't need a checklist. Were I to include one we need an extra page in this month's magazine.

It was Bishop Richard who suggested he might apply for the advertised post in Cowley. So Stephen came (on his own) to suss out our area. He drove along Beauchamp Lane thinking how lovely it was and by the time he reached the crest of the hill in Crescent Road overlooking the city skyline he thought it would be very nice to bring Sharon and his family to live here. The downside of accepting the post was walking into St James Church and being

frozen to his bones during his Licensing Service. This would be a number one priority he decided - a new heating system - one day.

Stephen is a Coventry man through and through, born and educated there. His father, Bill, who many of us well remember, worked at the Standard Motor Company (later part of British Leyland). After attending a little primary school close to his home until he was seven, he became a pupil at King Henry VIII School which in those days was a single sex establishment.

(Coincidentally Mark Harris's wife, Harriet, was also educated there after the school became co-educational.) What sort of pupil was he? I wondered. He says he was it bit silly, often getting into trouble and once, even being caned for putting a sticky sweet paper on another boy's shoulder. Geography was by far his favourite subject due mainly to an excellent teacher. He was never good at sports (having had to wear callipers on both his legs until the age of 7) and remembers how often he was left standing until last when the lads were

choosing teams for games. When he reached the 6th Form he discovered a way of dodging games - there was a scheme where the senior boys could "visit old ladies"! Stephen opted for this and enjoyed it. He continued to visit one lady in particular right up until she died shortly before he was ordained.

When he was about five or six he was sent to Sunday school but soon stopped. At the age of 13 he started to attending Evensong by choice. The vicar, and inspiring man, persuaded him to be Confirmed and so continued Stephen's spiritual journey. By 15 he was already thinking of ordination and (again, coincidentally) was interviewed by Andrew Meynell's father who was the Diocesan Director of Ordinands. Exams loomed at this time and were something of a threat mainly, Stephen believes, because in those days, unlike now, students were not properly prepared in a vision and examination techniques. However, he passed his O levels, stayed on into 6th Form to study geography, history and economics and gained a

place at St Chad's College at Durham University. Never having visited the area before he travelled there for interview by train thinking that he was heading for "a waste land full of coal tips". Instead he found a beautiful city, lit that December, by soft gaslight, the windows in the Cathedral close revealing a candlelit dinner party within. It was a cultural awakening for a boy from a very ordinary home in the industrial Midlands.

His degree, of course, was theology. Altogether he had a great time making lifelong friends amongst his fellow-students. One surprise was the fact that he was asked to play football for his college, St Chad's College (sadly snow intervened to prevent him taking to the field!).

Before being accepted to train for the Ministry he was required to learn something of the outside world so, having graduated he spent a year working first in a children's home, then in one for old people and also in a council office. It was in this last that he remembers being part of a team which drew lines across a map of Coventry designating which houses and other buildings should be demolished to make way for a new road network. Learning about the outside world for sure!

The next step before

ordination was two years at Wescott House, Cambridge, an Anglican theological college. Then came the day in June 1974 when he was ordained in the magnificent cathedral at Coventry by Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley.

Now a young curate he was sent to an industrial area in the north of Coventry where, he says, the vicar was a very eccentric character. After two-and-a-half years he moved to the other side of town - the smart side. You may have noted that all this time there had been very few females in his life: boys' school, all-male colleges, no women ordinands in those days either. He has an elder sister but she suffered from ill health even as a youngster and needed special consideration so, apart from his mother and the old ladies he visited his life was male orientated. So I was interested when we came to the moment when Sharon made her appearance.

In September 1979 he was appointed to a parish north of Stratford upon Avon, namely Snitterfield and Bearley. At his Induction Service there sat a pretty, young chorister who in Stephen's eyes "set her eyes and her heart upon him". I guess for her it was love at first sight so, when, nearly two years later, he invited her to accompany him to a performance of the

Coventry Mystery Plays in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral she readily accepted. And so their romance began. In February 1982, Sharon, the girl who had grown up in the village found herself the vicar's wife, an odd and quite difficult situation.

As soon as possible they moved to Exhall, a parish on the outskirts of Coventry with a lovely vicarage in the shadow of the M6. It was here that Lizzie, their first child, was born on Pentecost Sunday 1984. This event was something of a sensation in the parish as she was the first baby to arrive in the vicarage for over a hundred years. As we know their son, William, and daughter, Catherine, completed their family within the next few years. Despite these happy occasions Stephen found his ministry at Exhall more than a challenge. Sadly he encountered a congregation hostile to change. Rather disillusioned and disappointed he welcomed



Coventry Cathedral

the invitation from Dr Jeffrey John, then Dean of Magdalen College, Oxford, to continue his work at St Catherine's Church Tilehurst, a church which is featured on the back page of the June edition of the "Door".

What a difference! The whole family enjoyed a vibrant young church on a modern private housing estate with a music band and robed choir singing every Sunday morning. They remained at Tilehurst for eight happy years until God sent them to us. Sharon was reluctant at first and William found a change of school difficult until he gained his scholarship to Magdalen College School. However all five Hartley's, together with Mark and Katie, their foster children, found a warm welcome here and soon settled down. Stephen feels that we as a church family along with his own have evolved together.

And now it's time begin to move on again. One thing is quite certain his successor will not be frozen to the bone when he or she first walks into either St James' or St Francis'!

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Mischievous, often in trouble (a trait I fear I passed on to William!).

Have you any childhood memories you'd like to

share with us?

Going to Birmingham on the train with my mother to the Ideal Home Exhibition where I would eat a Knickerbocker Glory sitting in front of the dancing fountains! And of course the building of the Cathedral which was so much part of everyone's life in the Coventry in the late Fifties and early Sixties.

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

Yes, since I was very young but I was really touched by my vicar, Ron Milner, later Bishop of Burnley, who said, when I was 16, that he didn't fully know what it meant to be a Christian until he was 27. (*Perhaps he meant 97!*)

In the Society of the modern world what disappoints or angers you?

Globalisation and the blurring of the edges of national culture and traditions. And the liberalisation of Sunday trading.

What do you consider a positive aspect of life today?

Modern technology which helps people to keep in touch and enables those who are housebound or disabled to have greater access to the wider world.

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

The Curè d'Ars, St John Vianney. He was a French country priest who wanted nothing more from his ministry than to bring people to the Lord.

What is your most treasured possession?

A simple wooden cross and crown of thorns which I made with younger children on a Good Friday activity day when I was about 14. We always have it hung up in our sitting room.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Going out with Sharon discovering our beautiful countryside.

What makes you laugh?

Satirical shows like *Dead Ringers* and *Have I Got News For You*.

Do you have plans or ambitions for the future?

Taking part in Lizzie's Ordination when she is ordained a priest Getting all those old toys out of the attic for the grandchildren!Oh and discovering more delightful teasops!



HOOKED!

To all my supporters in Cowley.



Huge thanks to everyone who sponsored me and contributed to my London Marathon campaign for Child Poverty

Action Group. With your help I raised £1,700 which has gone to help CPAG in its work to eradicate child poverty in Britain. I am very grateful for your support.

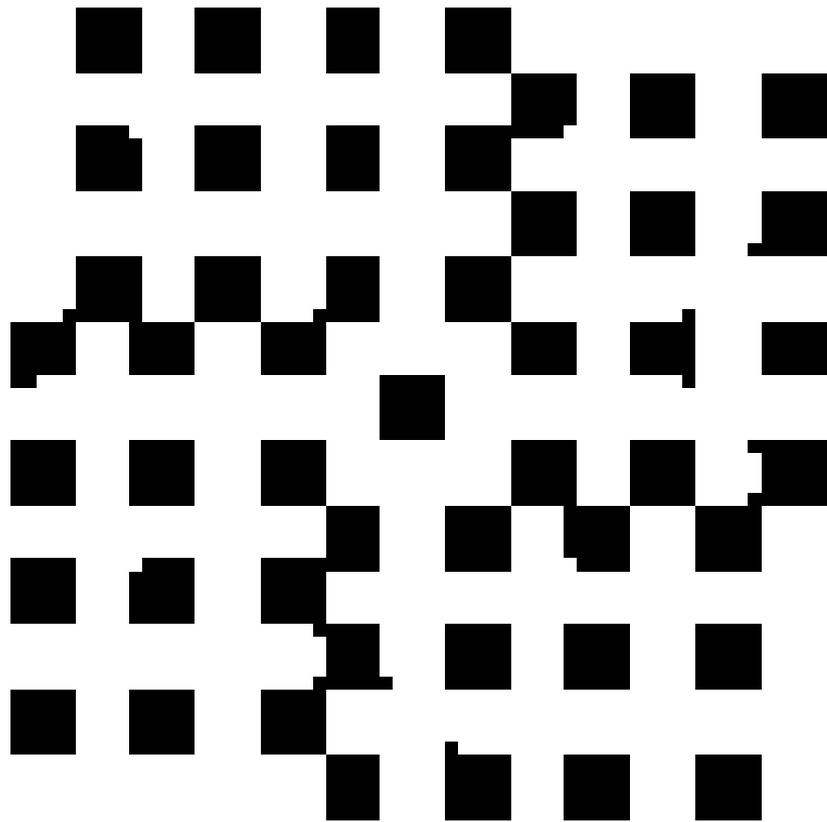
Running the marathon was an amazing experience. Nothing quite prepares you for the level of support the crowd gives you, it really gives you a lift. I finished in 3 hours 46 minutes which I was very pleased with. I have now officially caught the marathon running bug. I'm running the Berlin Marathon in September, and I hope to be lucky enough to get into both London and New York City Marathons in 2007. I've heard some people say 'Never again' after their first marathon - not me, I'm hooked!

Thanks again for your support, it means so much to me.

June's Solution

D	R	O	W	S	E		A	N	D	R	E	W
A		E	S				S	E				A
U		B	A	T	H	S	H	E	B	A		D
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B		F		R	U	F	U	S		P		X
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A			L	I	O	N	E	S	S	E	S	T
T		S		C			L		A			E
E	U	C	H	R	E		E	S	T	H	E	R

July's Crossword



Across

- 5 The swine in Matthew ch. 8 ran down such a place (5)
- 8 Governor of Syria in Luke ch. 2 (8)
- 9 Title of 2 books of the Old Testament (5)
- 10 Idle (8)
- 11 The supply of this was withheld in Exodus ch. 5 (5)
- 14 Deception of the bones in Ezekiel ch. 37 (3)
- 16 Japanese religion (6)
- 17 Number of disciples who went into Galilee in Matthew ch. 28 (6)
- 18 ..make thy thigh to ____ (Num 5.21) (3)
- 20 ..nakedness, or _____, or sword (Rom 8.35) (5)
- 24 Tribe among whom the children of Israel lived in Judges ch. 3 (8)
- 25 A breaker of the eighth commandment (5)
- 26 Left, like the elders of Moab in Numbers ch. 22 (8)
- 27 Decorate, as women do to

Down

- 1 David put five stones in this in 1 Samuel ch. 17 (5)
- 2 Food brought forth by Melchizedek in Genesis ch. 14 (5)
- 3 Insects strained at by blind guides in Matthew ch. 23 (5)
- 4 Borne by Elam in Isaiah ch. 22 (6)
- 6 Length, in cubits, of the gate in Ezekiel ch. 40 (8)
- 7 Trade followed by Aholiab in Exodus ch. 38 (8)
- 12 Gideon did this to wheat in Judges ch. 6 (8)
- 13 Machine designer (8)
- 14 Region over which the son of Abinadab was an officer in 1 Kings ch. 4 (3)
- 15 ____ was she carried away (Nah 3.10) (3)
- 19 Mount climbed by David in 2 Samuel ch. 15 (6)
- 21 Break the eighth commandment (5)

themselves in 1 Timothy ch. 2 (5)

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>)

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am	Parish Eucharist
	<i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>

Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Group – <i>St Francis</i>
	2.30 pm	Parish Mothers' Union - <i>St James (3rd Mon)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Seashells Baby & Toddler Club - <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	Eucharist - <i>St James</i>
	12.30 pm	Tuesday Lunch Club- <i>St James</i>
	2.30 pm	Friends of St Francis - <i>St Francis (2nd & 4th)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	2.30 pm	Tea Break - <i>St Francis (1st Wed)</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>
Saturday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast - <i>St Francis</i>

Day Off

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

PARISH DIRECTORY

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