

# A month of remembrance

November is the month of remembrance and death – we have All Souls services and Remembrance Sunday. It seems to fit with this dying time of year – the leaves are changing to yellow and red and falling from the trees. One of the things I particularly love about the Church of England is the way that the church calendar ties us into the rhythm of the seasons. Now, as the days grow shorter, and we huddle into our warm coats, the year is dying and we reflect upon loss and the people who have fallen from us.

My grandmother died a week ago, at the age of 96. I still can't believe she has really died. The funeral will be on Friday, 5th November at a Green memorial site in the Chilterns. She will be buried in a wicker coffin and placed in a remote place because she liked being a long way from everyone. After the service we will gather at my aunt's house for a bonfire and fireworks.

My grandmother was a Scot, so we will mark her passing with whisky and black bun and shortbread.

It seems to me that death is very normal and yet it is also very shocking. My grandmother was very old and frail, and yet I cannot believe that she has died. The world is changing and I struggle to keep up with it. I wonder if the pattern of our lives, as mortal

beings, is that as more and more of the people whom we love die, then we have this terrible accumulated loss. Somehow we have to learn to release them to God, in the hope of the new heaven and earth that we will know after death.

And when you have known and loved someone, in a sense you cannot lose them – they are a part of you, they have marked you and you have marked them.

So my invitation to you this November is to use this dying month of remembrance to make your goodbyes again. Come to the Memorial Services at church on 7th November at 4pm – remember your beloved dead and also those whom you struggled to love. Because grieving takes time and has different stages. We say goodbye to people when we know they are dying, we say goodbye again at the funeral, we say goodbye as the anniversaries mount up and we miss them again and again and again.

But we are not left comfortless – we have the living who remain with us and we have God, the Comforter, within us. Death is not the end because we are held by the God

and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Susannah Reide**

# Chronicle

Cowley Team Ministry  
November 2010

# Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Whilst sitting in church (a really packed church) on Back to Church Sunday/Harvest Festival the story of Georgie Moore's harvest services sprang to mind – come on, I am sure you sometimes have lapsed moments of thought during the service! It is a well-known well-documented fact that Rev. Georgie's sermons were so dynamic that there was not a spare seat in the place and his harvest festivals had to be spread over two successive weeks. He preached on some pretty unusual subjects, one was famously based on local pub signs. An apocryphal tale tells that in order to get a pew at his special services the church wardens took a discreet "back-hand" bribe to reserve one. (No, David, don't get any ideas!) More about the famous Georgie Moore when "The Origins of Cowley" reaches the Victorian era.

By the time you read this Frank and I will be on the other side of the world in Tasmania. Don't worry though, readers, the friend we are visiting is church warden of a big Anglican church in Hobart – St George's. The services there use the same format as ours and they even choose their hymns from The English Hymnal (the Green Book). While we are there they will be celebrating Tasmania Day

## **BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY/HARVEST FESTIVAL**

The Back to Church Sunday/Harvest Festival at St James Church on the 26 September was a great occasion, with the church looking splendid decked in Harvest-time flowers, fruit and vegetables. There were a lot of new people attending as well as the regular church goers, and the church was full. People were warm and friendly, and in addition to the service people made harvest donations for The Porch Steppin' Stone Centre. On leaving the church we were given an apple to crunch – a real autumn/Harvest Festival treat.

This lovely service was followed by an extremely good Harvest Festival luncheon in St James Church Centre. As usual, the team of ladies who work so hard at all these special occasions (and indeed at other times too) provided an excellent meal accompanied by cider or apple juice - many congratulations to them.

A most memorable occasion.

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with a special service and a church barbecue lunch (how familiar does that sound?) We shall not be neglecting our Sunday worship, I promise, and with coffee and chat in the Church Room on Sunday mornings it does feel like home. Please pray for us while we are away and we will see you when we return in the middle of the month.

While I am away Sally will be looking after The Chronicle for us. If you can email (which is the best way as it means less typing) please send articles to [sallyhemsworth@supanet.com](mailto:sallyhemsworth@supanet.com), and if you have handwritten articles please pop them through her door - she lives at 9 Cleveland Drive.

Next month will be our Christmas double issue so if you have got any good seasonal stories, poems, recipes, etc which you would like to share do send them in. Just a thought, maybe our clever knitters have got a pattern for a cuddly Santa or a cute snowman.

I do hope you are finding our monthly magazine is a good read. We do try to include something for everyone.

God Bless

**Rosanne**

## Chronicle Details and Deadlines

The Chronicle is the monthly magazine of the Parish of Cowley Team Ministry.

The Chronicle is edited by Rosanne Butler, material from St Francis church members is collected by John Shreeve.

To submit stories ring the parish office on (01865) 747 680 or email [chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk)

Issue	Deadline
December	21 November

## Dates to Remember

<b>Craft Fair</b>	Saturday, 13 November 11.00 – 3 pm St James Church Centre	
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Monday, 15th November 2.30 pm St James Church Centre	Speaker: Mark Oxbrow
<b>Cowley Local History Society</b>	Tuesday, 16 November 7.30 pm United Reform Church, Temple Road	Speaker: Tim Healey – The Green Man Trail in Oxfordshire
<b>Cowley Women's Institute</b>	Monthly meetings at St James Church Centre – 3rd Wednesday of month from 2 – 4.30 pm Next meeting: 17th November, 2 pm.	Speaker: Mr D Griffiths – Air Ambulance
<b>Parish Quiet Day</b>	Saturday, 20 November Stanton House, Stanton St John	Fully booked
<b>Christmas Concert 2010</b>	Saturday, 11 December 7.30 pm St James Church Followed by supper in the Church Centre	£12.00, including supper Tickets will be on sale from 15th November. Box office number 453257
<b>Alpha Course 2011</b>	Friday Evenings from 28 January 2011 St James Church Centre (The course will last 11 weeks, a ten week course plus a Holy spirit Day in the middle on a Saturday.)	£3.00 per session

## LITTLE HATS

Last month we were asked to publish in the Chronicle a big thank you to all the wonderful knitting ladies in our parish for the marvellous effort they made making little hats. Now we are always more than happy to mention all the great things that people do and when we were told that in the space of a couple of months 995 little hats had been knitted we began to wonder what for? "For smoothies, of course", we were told! Now, we always thought that a smoothie was either one of those not-very-desirable characters who might chat you up in a bar or a disco or a refreshing drink made from fruit and yoghurt, and why on

earth would either of those need a knitted hat?!

Well, here's the answer. Age UK, the charity which does so much work for elderly people, came up with the idea that if the smoothies sold in Sainsbury's supermarkets had cute little hats on them (each hat individually designed) people would be prepared to pay extra for them and all that extra cash would be sent to their charity. What a brilliant idea! We do hope the scheme is a success and a big thank you is due to our Cowley ladies who have knitted so tirelessly. The other thank you we were asked to include was to all those kind people who donated wool. Hats off to all of you.

# 5th Cowley Guides

During the past year to celebrate the Centenary the Guides have taken part in a number of events and challenges. We have attended a party at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, a Division Fun Day in Headington, a Division Thinking Day parade at St Francis, and have held a penguin themed party. We have visited Boars Hill, Iffley Lock and Jubilee House. The Guides have also held a paper horse racing night, a fish and chip supper and an international evening.

We are currently planning the final event of our Centenary year. Our Centenary ends of 20 November 2010. At our meeting that week we are planning to hold a traditional games night, and at the end of the meeting members will remake their promise and receive special badges. We also have two new members who will be making their promise for the first time.

Altogether it has been a busy but fun and challenging year.

## Mothers' Union News



Anyone who has heard Mark Oxbrow preach a sermon or give a talk will understand how pleased we are that he is going to be our speaker for our November meeting. At the moment he is doing missionary work in East Africa but on his return he has promised to tell the Mothers' Union about his travels. Our meeting this month is on 15th November at 2.30 pm. As ever we would like to

invite anyone who would wish to join us to come along.

Each meeting begins with prayers and usually a suitable reading. After the speaker there is time for a chat, a cuppa and a biscuit or two. Turning up to listen to a good speaker does not mean that you will be accosted to be recruited into membership. We shall just be very pleased to see you.

## Cowley Women's Institute

Monthly meetings are held at St James Church Centre on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

**Next meeting: November 17th**

Speaker: Mr D Griffiths

Subject: Air Ambulance

Meetings are from 2 pm to 4.30 pm.

## Cowley Local History Society

The First Meeting of the Society's 2010/2011 Programme is on Tuesday, 16 November 2010 commencing at 7.30 pm

Annual General Meeting followed by Tim Healey who will be giving an illustrated talk on

**The Green Man Trail in Oxfordshire**

## ALPHA is coming!

We are pleased to tell you that a new Alpha course will start on Friday evenings beginning on 28th January 2011 in the St James Church Centre.

Each evening begins with a good meal followed by a talk and then group discussion. The cost will be £3.

The course is designed to help us to learn about Jesus Christ and Christianity. It is suitable for both experienced Christians who have not done such a course and for those who may be thinking about faith and those who know nothing of Christianity. Everything said is confidential and every question is welcomed, no holds barred.

Please think about whether you would like to attend, think about whom you would like to invite. There will be invitations available later.

Please pray for this alpha course and for the prospective guests.

# The Origins of Cowley

## Part Seven : The Normans

In Saxon times it is very unlikely that the villagers of Cowley were aware until several weeks after the event that early in the year 1066 their King, Edward, known as the Confessor, had died. News travelled slowly. Visiting preaching friars or travelling pedlars would carry stories by word of mouth and in a tiny village outside the frontier town of Oxford such visits would have been fairly infrequent. Peasants taking produce by boat up the river to Oxford market or to sell at the gate of St Frideswide priory might have brought back the news but life in Cowley went on.

What few citizens and villagers would have known, or frankly, cared about, would be the upheaval caused at the court over Edward's successor. Because he was preoccupied with his devotional life it would seem that he fell prey to forceful and unscrupulous schemers. Half Norman himself through his mother he spent much of his time across the Channel and it would seem, whilst on a hunting trip over there he was tricked into promising William, Duke of Normandy, the right to the English throne. William also tricked his distant cousin, Harold, into promising to support this plan. However, on his deathbed Edward designated Harold as king and that's what caused one of the most sweeping changes in English history.

The only impact initially that this would have had on the folk of Cowley would probably have been when in the autumn of 1066 Leofwin, one of the Saxon landowners of the area was called to take a group of peasants who worked under his lordship to fight for King Harold at the battle of Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire. Leofwin, according to the records, held some of his land in "warland", a condition which demanded that he would provide soldiers to fight for the King when required.

We do not need to examine the story of the battle nor do we need to go on to tell how the triumphant English army marched for three days, more or less non-stop, to arrive on the Sussex coast just in time to fight against William, Duke of Normandy. He, with his Norman hoards, had crossed the Channel to claim what he declared to be his right to the English throne. Everyone knows the outcome but as far as the peasants in our little village were concerned the big issue was where were the men

and boys, needed to gather in the harvest, collect fuel for the winter and tackle all the important tasks of everyday life?

It would not have been until after Christmas in the early months of 1067, that the first changes began to be noticed in the rural areas of England. William, now The Conqueror, now crowned William I, was about to hand out to his henchmen and rich relations great parcels of the land that he now ruled in reward for their support. Cowley was no exception.

Twenty years after his victory at Hastings, King William ordered an enormous and never to be emulated, audit of the land over which he ruled. Commissioners, teams of monks and scribes, were sent into almost every town, village and hamlet to document everything of value there. Incidentally London, Winchester and parts of Bristol were not surveyed and there is only speculation as to the reason for this. However, the commissioners came to Cowley and recorded what they found. Their evidence had to be corroborated by twelve men of good standing (the beginning of the jury system) who backed up the word of the shire reeve (sheriff). Collecting the evidence would have taken place in the manor house, in the great hall, which by now was probably situated at the end of the Hollow Way where the stone hauliers took their route across to the terrace on its way past Hockmore Street and on to the Thames at Iffley.

The King's commissioners recorded their findings in the Domesday Book and this is what they said about Cowley. It was divided up into four unequal parcels of land. Two of these had been awarded to Norman barons who had obviously helped William to win at Hastings. Two were in the ownership of Saxons, Leofwin being one and Toli the other. Of course we do not know what these two Saxons had done to fall into favour with the Norman barons but there must have been some co-operation with them. Perhaps Leofwin's little army had sworn allegiance to William and Leofwin's warland was maintained. It could also have been that they had taken Norman girls as brides (French girls were always an attraction!). The Saxon lands and possessions were

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as follows:

“Leofwin holds Cowley from the King 4 ½ hides. Land for 10 ploughs. In lordship 1 hide of warland, 1 plough, 2 slaves, 20 villagers with 5 smallholders have 8 ploughs. A mill at 40 shillings, 2 fisheries at 8 shillings. Meadow – 10 acres, copse – 4 furlongs long and 2 furlongs wide.

The value is (in 1086) and was (in 1066) 100 shillings.

Leofwin also held these lands freely before 1066.

“Toli holds 1 ½ hides and the third part of a virgate of land in Cowley. Land for 1 plough. He has it there with 1 slave, 2 villagers and 2 smallholders. Meadow – 1 ½ acres, copse – 3 acres.

The value is (in 1086) and was (in 1066) 20 shillings. Toli also held it freely.

Now we come to the two rich Norman lords, who also, by the way, owned huge areas in other parts of Oxon, Berks and Bucks. Count Eustace’s only holding in Oxfordshire was in Cowley. Domesday tells us:

“Count Eustace holds 3 hides in Cowley from the King and Roger from him. Land for 5 ploughs. Now in lordship 2 ploughs, 3 slaves, 6 villagers have 3 ploughs. Meadow – 5 acres, copse – 2 acres in length and width. From a mill and 1 virgate of land 35 shillings.

The total value is (in 1086) and was (in 1066) 40 shillings.”

The Roger in the former account also features in the final Cowley entry:

“Roger (d’Ivry) holds 2 hides and the third part of 1 virgate in Cowley, land for 2 ploughs. They are there, in lordship, with 4 smallholders and 2 slaves. Meadow – 4 acres, pasture – 2 acres.

The value was (in 1066) 60 shillings, now (in 1086) 40 shillings”

Quite a few areas in England fell in value. Only one in Cowley.

Now I need to give you some information to help with those areas of land: a hide was about 120 acres and a virgate about 30 acres. Each person who cultivated the land had to pay rent and taxes to the landowner who was one step higher up in pecking order. It would seem that Count Eustace paid rents to Roger who in turn paid his dues to the King. Slaves had to work for nothing except their keep.

One point which I find particularly interesting is that in some areas of Britain Domesday identified various manufacturing skills including potters. Cowley has no mention of such people so it would seem that the fine pottery made in Roman times was no longer produced. So what was life in Norman Cowley like? Well, we will leave that till next month.

## REPORT OF COWLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Sally Hemsworth was welcomed to her first meeting as Secretary to the PCC and Maureen Chatterton as a co-opted member of the PCC.

The main discussion related to necessary building work at both churches, the procedure for obtaining permission to undertake the work and the need to raise money for this work:

- St Francis’ Church Buildings – painting of the interior of the Church/repair work to the drains/the need to explore the possibility of replacing the Hut at the end of the car park with better premises
- St James Church Buildings – the redecoration of the exterior, the installation of acoustic tiles, the plans to decorate the kitchen, and the provision of a sound system at the Church Centre/repair work on St James Church in line with the 2006 Quinquennial Report.

In addition, the PCC agreed the Terms of Reference for a Parish Finance Committee which would ensure the PCC has an informed overview of the Parish finances and would support and advise the Treasurer. This Committee would also act as the working party to establish a group to be known as The Friends of Cowley Parish.

There was also discussion on:

- Finances – the Treasurer gave a report on the Cowley Parish Budget 2010 as at the end of August.
- 80th Anniversary of St Francis’ Church – a working party is to be set up to plan the celebrations.
- The autumn programme of activities for both Churches.
- The total raised for Christian Aid hit £1000+.

# SAINT OF THE MONTH St Martin

Everyone knows the tower, at the centre of the cross roads in the middle of Oxford, as Carfax Tower but good Oxonians (like us!) also know it as the tower of the church of St Martins which was demolished in 1820 to make room for the increasing volume of traffic in the city. It was a stroke of genius that the tower was saved along with the lovely archway to the right of it (if you stand with your back to The High). Over the archway carved in relief is the figure of St Martin depicted as a Roman soldier.

Born in 321 AD in Sabaria in France he declared as a child that he wished to be baptised as a Christian. His father however, would have none of it and placed him in the Roman army when he was just fifteen. Within a short time he was made an officer but, we are told, shared his tent and meals with those servants assigned to look after him. Whilst stationed near Amiens he was riding one bitterly cold winter day when he was approached at the city gate by a beggar. The beggar was almost naked and pleaded for alms. Martin took his sword and sliced his warm, red woollen cloak in half giving one piece to the beggar. His companions jeered at him but that night he had a dream in which he saw Jesus surrounded by angels and wrapped in half of Martin's cloak. "See" Jesus said, "this is the cloak which Martin gave Me".

After this dream he waited no longer and was baptized at Amiens. He continued serving as a soldier for a further five years and then asked to be relieved of military service. Taunted for his cowardice he told the officers to

put him in the front line of battle with no armour or weapons. "The only battle I shall fight from now on will be as a soldier of Christ" he declared. He was clapped in irons but finally released and went to receive instructions from the Bishop of Poitiers.

He revisited his parents and converted his mother. However, being an outspoken young man he discovered heretical goings-on amongst some of the bishops and declared them. He was whipped for his protest and was forced to escape to Milan. Later he returned to Poitiers where he gained such a reputation that when the Bishopric of Tours fell vacant the people of that city decided Martin was the man for the job. Because he was such a humble person the citizens of Tours dreamt up a trick to entice him into their gates. They told him his wife who lived there was ill and when Martin rushed off to visit her they ambushed him, carried him into the waiting bishops who consecrated him, and that was that. That only happened after the said bishops realised this chap, with uncut hair and ragged old clothes was, indeed the person that the ordinary folk loved, admired and had chosen.

After his enthronement Martin became over-whelmed with the crowds who swarmed to visit him so he took himself off to a cave overlooking the Loire valley. Even there about eighty disciples followed him, their aim, with him, to stamp out the heathen practices in the area. They pulled down pagan temples and built churches in their place. In one village Martin discovered pagan

worship taking place under a huge fir tree. He planned to have it cut down and it upset so many people that he offered to stand, bound with ropes, in the path of where the felled tree would fall. When the tree fell in the opposite direction everyone believed that he was saved by God's will.

Throughout his long life he was credited with many miracles and visions. He showed mercy even to those who had done wrong. A train of captives arrived in Tours, those who had rebelled against their local Count. They were due to be executed but Martin banged on the master's door and when it was opened he was found kneeling with hands outstretched in supplication. Count Avitianus raised him up saying "Do not speak. I know what you have come to ask. Every prisoner shall be spared". The bishops and leaders of the Church in those days meted out severe punishment for a variety of crimes against their religion. Beheading, thrashings, imprisonment in appalling conditions. Martin's ministry was one of mercy and love. Even at eighty years old he was persuaded by his disciples to pray for a longer life so he asked God to give him strength to toil for His people. He died in 401 AD and it was said that as the boat which bore his body sailed along the River Loire the sound of heavenly music could be heard and all the trees on the banks burst into blossom.

St Martin's special day of commemoration is November 11th.

# Rosanne Interviews Marion Evans

Long ago when the world was very young, well at least fifty years ago, I came to teach in Oxford. Those were the days when the Oxford Education Committee had not been amalgamated with the County and the policy was to turn the staff of all the city schools into one big happy family. Every year a party was held to welcome new teachers to the authority into the family. Teachers from as many schools as possible would attend. When we met Marion and I were sharing recollections of those days because it was at one of the new teacher parties that I first met her and several other retired teachers I bump into from time to time.

So fifty years since we met, where have all the years gone?

When she began preparing to teach she was given huge encouragement by her parents who believed that it would mean a secure career for their bright young daughter. Her mum was always on hand to help and advise with homework even through the difficult war years when Mr Evans, Marion's much-loved dad was away working in the very dangerous shipyards of Portsmouth.

But let's start at the very beginning. She is a local girl who knows Cowley like the back of her hand. Born in Bullingdon Road her parents moved first to James Street and then to Campbell Road. By the time she was of school age they had bought the house in Magdalen Road which became her home for many years. Living where she did meant her infant and junior schooldays were spent at SS Mary and John School in Hertford Street.

Marion has fond and vivid memories of her early school years even to the name of her first teacher. She was a pupil there during the Second World War and told about the cold, dark air-raid shelters where the children did air-raid practice clutching their boxed gas-masks. The shelters were across the playground as were the toilets so it was a matter of plucking up courage on rainy or snowy days if you needed to "go". The junior boys' classrooms were downstairs while the girls had lessons upstairs with Miss Seward and Miss Restall. The latter lady taught singing and the rudiments of sight-reading music. This Marion found very helpful as her mother paid for her to have piano lessons. These led on to a career in which music played an important part. She described a picture of happy school days with teachers, attired in hand-knitted woollen suits, helping her to develop a love of history, English and needlework. The girls actually made hand-sewn cotton dresses for themselves before they left aged eleven!

Her church, of course, was SS Mary and John where school services were held regularly and where her parents took her on Sundays. Sunday school was also an important event in her week.

In Marion's day the 11+ exam was known as The Scholarship. Having passed this hurdle successfully she went off to Milham Ford Girls School sometimes on the bus, sometimes on her bike wearing her navy-blue felt hat in winter or her straw boater in the summer trimmed with the school colours. The Milham girls called their boaters "bashers" and Marion still

has hers to this day. This too was a happy time for our interviewee. It was then that she grew to love the English language, especially poetry, the French language and also history. Never very good at sport her academic prowess was proved with nine passes in GCE exams. After A levels in the sixth form she left her old school friends behind to train as a teacher.

Of course some of the years we have been hearing about coincided with wartime and, as I mentioned before, her father was away for much of that time. Her mother, as part of her war effort, offered lodgings to entertainers from ENSA, those great artists who travelled from camp to camp helping to keep up morale amongst the troops.

During her teenage years, before college, Marion along with a group of friends "found" St Aldates church and its Friday night youth club. It was there that she first met John Shreeve and his elder brother. There was a great social atmosphere there and Marion remembers how good it was that every evening ended with prayers. It was at St Aldates church in 1948 that she was confirmed wearing a white silk dress made for her by her mother from parachute silk. Coincidentally I was also confirmed in 1948 wearing a dress made from a parachute!

It was during those years that she stayed at Hill End Camp in Farmoor with the youth club. Her memories are mostly of the primitive conditions and the freezing swimming pool. She also remembers her first visit to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford in her teens which

sparked off a life-long love of Shakespeare's work.

Because she had relatives in Portsmouth (her father's original home city) she did her teacher training there. It was a girls' college with hostels for students. Her hostel was near the seafront which was a good place for a stroll. She studied music and history along with all the necessary subjects for a primary teacher. She had a special friend called Joyce with whom she still corresponds. She told me a little story about how she and Joyce broke college rules and were never found out – so now it can be told. The students were forbidden to go along to South Parade Pier. All sorts of undesirable goings-on there, I guess! However one day the two girls discovered that a talent contest was being held there and, full of mischief, they decided to enter. Marion played the piano and Joyce sang. Although they did not come first they did win a prize. The excited pair rushed back to the hostel to tell their friends and luckily for them the news did not reach a member of staff.

Back home in Oxford Marion applied to the local Education Authority for a teaching post and was placed at Barton primary school. As she taught music she was involved in preparing pupils to sing each year in the annual Music Festivals and she taught country dancing (even taking a team of dancers to the Royal Albert Hall). She spent fourteen happy years at Barton and then, looking for a change, she moved to Donnington. Whilst she was there a scheme to train

teachers to include French in the junior curriculum was underway. Marion was offered the chance to spend a whole term studying in Paris.

She loved the opportunity to get to know Paris. Her good friend, Ruby Archer, went over at half-term and they had a great time walking everywhere, sightseeing and enjoying the cafe culture. From Donnington she moved to Orchard Meadow School, Blackbird Leys where she taught for a further seventeen years and from where she retired. She had continued to live in the family home until her mother died and she then decided a small flat would suit her retirement years. She moved to Wykeham Crescent near to her friend, Ruby. While I looked out of her big front window she pointed out the homes of a host of good friends and neighbours. There is much mutual support in that small area which makes for a very happy life.

Marion did want me to tell you about one exciting experience that occurred during the years she worshipped at St Aldates. Cliff Richard (no less) came to speak there and she actually got to shake his hand. She will let you shake that very same hand during The Peace if you like!! She began to attend St James' during Rev Andrew Meynell's incumbency and learnt to love the church and its people. I am sure that sentiment is returned.

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

I was not terribly forthcoming, hid my light under a bushel. I did not like to push myself forward.

### **Have you any never-to-**

### **be-forgotten memories of childhood?**

During the war when mum took in ENSA people they used to have concerts in the Town Hall on a Sunday night. We would sit amongst all the service people enjoying the show.

### **Has your faith been with you since you were young?**

I started when I first started school. One of the Cowley Fathers would come into school and tell us stories. Then Sunday School, then being confirmed. I have been in church all my life.

### **What is your opinion of present day society?**

We are in a right old state. I do wish people would respect each other and get on with each other more.

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

Make life less complicated. I would get rid of some of our modern gadgets especially mobile phones.

### **Which period of your adult life has given you the most satisfaction?**

In the sixties I was more carefree. Then the world began to change – not really for the better.

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

Meeting up with friends for a good old chat, a day out in the country with a nice meal at a village pub.

### **What plans do you have for the future?**

Just to keep going as I am till my time is up.

# Are you a fan of Time Team too....?

If you have been following Rosanne's excellent series on the origins of Cowley, you might want to be part of a 3-year community project, run by The University of Oxford's Department of Continuing Education, which is starting this autumn, investigating the history and archaeology of the east of Oxford. It is to concentrate on the areas south of London Road and over to the Thames, west of Magdalen Bridge, including Iffley, Rose Hill, Blackbird Leys, Littlemore, Cowley, East Oxford, St Clements and South Headington, including Wood Farm.

This area has been relatively neglected compared to central Oxford. It has always been an area of less salubrious use, including a leper hospital, work house, industrial school, army barracks, brick works and, of course, motor manufacturing.

Up until a couple of centuries ago, the landscape was largely agricultural with a large area of marsh. The mediaeval leper hospital at St Barnabas is well known but has never been fully excavated and researched. The Romano-British pottery industry in this area was huge. Starting in the first century AD, it became one of the largest suppliers of fine ware in Roman Britain and the Western Roman Empire in the fourth century. Kilns have been found on the Churchill Hospital site, Blackbird Leys, on Otmoor and in St Luke's Road here in Cowley. Are there more yet to find? Exciting traces are already known of Iron Age (Rose Hill) and Viking (St Clements) settlements and Civil War siege works dating to the time when Oxford was the Royalist capital.

It is an opportunity to become involved and to get hands-on in the investigation of the local landscape, recording discoveries, and presenting interpretations of the results. Volunteers will be trained in all the skills needed including excavation, analysis of maps, cleaning and sorting finds, but the main qualification is enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. I studied archaeology as part of my degree years ago and have always had an interest. I volunteered about 18 months ago and I started refreshing my excavation skills last year with work on the annual on-going dig at Frilford/Marcham.

Archaeologists and historians will run training workshops to enable volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to get involved in researching their own areas and to dig test pits. Information from these will lead to one or two larger archaeological excavations. I intend to dig a test pit in my garden and, hopefully on or near my allotment. Finds will be documented and reports written up, and the discoveries will also be used to inspire a range of books, articles, pod-casts, programmes and displays as well as art and drama.

The information uncovered by the project will cast new light on the development of the city and provide valuable data for future planning and development. The project website – <http://www.archeox.net/> - will be expanded to help detail the progress of the project and provide a lasting record of the discoveries. The website is also where you can volunteer to help.

**Joan Coleman**

# God in my life *Rebecca Chand*

Before my marriage in 1990 I was a Hindu and came from a Hindu background, from India. After meeting Richard, my husband, I was baptised and confirmed. Since then God has marked many miracles in my life. I had seen and been through many ups and downs in my life. However, God gave me strength to come through those difficulties. When I have a problem or I am down, God always talks to me and shows me the way, whenever I need him.

As I revealed, I was from the Hindu background and family in India. To begin with I was the only one to receive Jesus. In my childhood my father worked in politics in India. He used to go to all the religious places and ceremonies of Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians. In my childhood I remember we used to attend some of the Christian functions in India. We used to have the bible in the home, and I can remember my father used to put a hand on the bible and pray. We used to have pictures of Hindu gods and also of Jesus. I always used to say to my mother that I liked the picture of Jesus. I used to say to my brother that when I die do not burn my body (because in Hindu culture they burn the dead bodies).

I came from a big family with six sisters and two brothers. Four sisters are older than me and two sisters and two brothers younger than me in India, apart from one older sister settled here in the UK as well. We are all very close with each other and,

although most of them are still in India, we still are all in contact and close to one another.

When I got married to Richard in February 1990 I received bible study, how to read the bible and pray, from my father-in-law, and how to live a Christian life and Christian discipline. Then I was baptised on 14th April 1990.

I am proud to have two children, daughter and son named Elisabeth and Daniel. We bring them up in a Christian environment, and they know how to read the bible and know how to pray. I hope and pray they will be always close to God.

In twenty years of marriage God has delivered so many miracles in my life. I have been involved with so much work with Parishes and their programmes, with their congregations and involved with work along with Richard's ministry. A few years ago my brother and his family came to Jesus Christ.

I love to talk about other miracles and my testimony next time I have a chance to share. For now we would like to thank the Parish for their great welcome and help in settling us down in this Parish in our first year here. We enjoy the people, Parish and the work. The people are very friendly and we especially thank Howard and his family for being great neighbours.

Until next time stay blessed in Christ

**Rebecca Chand**

Salam Ji (greeting in Indian)

# PEOPLE CERTAINLY ARE STRANGE CREATURES!

GOD:

Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS:

It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD:

Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD:

The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it—sometimes twice a week.

GOD:

They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS:

Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD:

They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS:

No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD:

Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS:

Yes, Sir.

GOD:

These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS:

You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD:

What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to

provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS:

You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD:

No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS:

After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD:

And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS:

They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD:

Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE:

'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about....

GOD:

Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

# ST MARTIN'S OF CANTERBURY OUR MOTHER CHURCH

Although many people regard Canterbury Cathedral as our mother church, the honour should really go to St Martin's. For St Martin's was already old when Augustine came in AD597 with 40 companions – monks and interpreters to preach the good news of Jesus Christ to King Ethelbert and the people of Kent. Bede's History, completed in 731, says what happened.

“On the East side of the city there was an old church in honour of St Martin, built during the Roman occupation of Britain, where the queen, who was a Christian, was accustomed to pray. Here they first began to assemble to sing the psalms, to pray, to celebrate mass, to preach and baptize, until the King was converted to the faith, and gave them greater freedom to preach and to build”.

The story begins in the 580s when Ethelbert married a Frankish princess, Bertha. She had been brought up in Tours, where St Martin had been bishop two centuries earlier. One of the conditions of the marriage was that Bertha should be able to continue to worship as a Christian. She was therefore accompanied to Kent by a chaplain, Bishop Liudhard, and was given a former Roman building – part of the present church, beside the old Canterbury to Richborough road, as her royal chapel.

St Augustine enlarged the original small chapel into the present larger church. He then began work on his abbey (now unfortunately in ruins), and later Canterbury Cathedral. These buildings all form part of the present Canterbury World Heritage Site, and St Martin's claims to be the oldest church in continuous use in the English speaking world. This claim is very valid, for St Martin's is still very much a working Parish Church, with Sunday and weekday services for all people, as it has been throughout the centuries. It is not just a museum for visitors to look round.

At a time when so many of our ancient village churches are falling into disrepair, I am filled with awe that this venerable building has survived so well and in such good shape, unlike its illustrious neighbour which is having to have extensive replacement and repair to its stones.

It's simple design with its squat tower and thick walls has weathered well. The outside is mirrored on the inside which again is straight forward without any fussy embellishments or monuments. Just a plain nave and chancel without any side chapels. The old Roman and Saxon stones are clearly visible and without any polishing or dressing, which seems much more in keeping with the building. The altar has a cloth of an unusual green. Just a metal cross with a vine representing Christ's church. It has an ancient carved stone font believed to be Saxon or early Norman. One of the windows depicts women who helped to spread the faith, including Queen Bertha and her daughter Ethelburga, who converted King Edwin of Northumbria. It has a piscina for washing Holy vessels and a Christmatory for containing Holy oils – now very rare. It also has a squint window so that Lepers could view the church from the outside. There is a statue of Queen Bertha in the chancel.

So there is a lot of a historical nature about the place but also more modern things to interest the visitors - a candle holder for prayers and prayer requests and a corner for leaflets, postcards and booklets for sale. A member of the church congregation was on hand to answer questions or give advice. This, I thought, was a caring touch.

To anyone interested in church history this building is a delight, and it is heart-warming to know that its parish life is still vigorous and full of ideas.

Long may it continue to be so.

**John Shreeve**

# SMILE

*The Archway Foundation  
invites you to an*



*Advent Service*

*at 6:00pm*

*on the*

*27th of November*

*Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford*



*The Archway Foundation would like to thank the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral for their generosity in donating all offerings taken at this service to support our work in 'serving those hurt by loneliness'.*

E-mail: [office@archwayfoundation.org.uk](mailto:office@archwayfoundation.org.uk)  
Phone: 01865 790552  
[www.archwayfoundation.org.uk](http://www.archwayfoundation.org.uk)  
Charity Reg. No.: 299533  
Company No.: 2262206

Three elderly church ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning. The Methodist minister observed, "Windy, isn't it" "No" the Baptist pastor said, "it's Thursday." The Anglican vicar agreed: "So am I! Let's go get a pint."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Doctor, I can hear all kinds of animals talking in my head." "Well, don't worry", said the doctor, "you're just having



## News from St Francis School

School is, as ever, very busy and exciting. Amongst other things there have been story telling sessions for children and parents, a Greek afternoon, a seaside day and numerous sporting events. The children went to church for a St Francis day service led by Rev Howard Thornton and there was a harvest collection for the Community Emergency Food Bank.

The Year 5/6 classes have been studying the Tudors. They have learnt about Tudor monarchs and have painted careful portraits of them. The children found out about food and clothes of that period. Some children made shields and swords and did a re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth. This was filmed, stills taken and a display made which was then liberally sprinkled with red food colouring instead of blood. A Tudor crime and punishment day was also very popular and the children described the punishments to me with considerable enthusiasm.

There was a visit to Sulgrave Manor - this is what Amanda Gitau and Sam Marler wrote: "We went to Sulgrave Manor. This involved a range of activities. It was a great experience and we really enjoyed it. Sulgrave was great fun because we dressed up in Tudor clothes and then we looked round Lord Washington's house. We acted out a play about the Tudor era. We washed our hands ready for a Tudor style lunch. We brought it from home - it had to be wrapped in a cloth or in a basket."

**Sarah Lacey**

# TELEGRAMS

A fine little lad was young Jimmy.  
I loved him like one of my own.  
He lived in the cottage just over the hedge,  
His mum the best friend I've known.

We brought up our children together  
And Jimmy would make up such games  
With an old clapped-out pram he'd be Dobbin  
And my Sally held on to the "reins".

Bundles of sticks he would bring us  
For kindling, whenever he could,  
Mushrooms from the fields in his pocket  
And wild flowers that grew by the wood.

He knew where to find the best berries  
And crab apples too, down the lane.  
He grew up so fast, at just fourteen years  
He left school and a farmhand became

My Sally and he would go walking.  
His mum smiled to see them together.  
By the gate they'd stand, hand-in-hand,  
Not caring about wind or weather.

When Bill, my dear husband, was called  
To serve in the army at war  
Jim went to town on his own  
Said, "I'm sixteen, you need me for sure".

We cried on each other's shoulders  
That sad, sad, sorrowful day  
When I begged Bill, "Please watch out for Jim",  
As our loved ones marched bravely away.

And how can I grieve with my dear friend,  
(Poor Sally is quite overcome)  
When the telegram boy came last week  
To tell of the loss of her son?

For this morning the boy came again,  
Brought a telegram up to my door  
To tell me dear Bill had been killed out in France.  
My cry is, "Oh dear God, what for?"

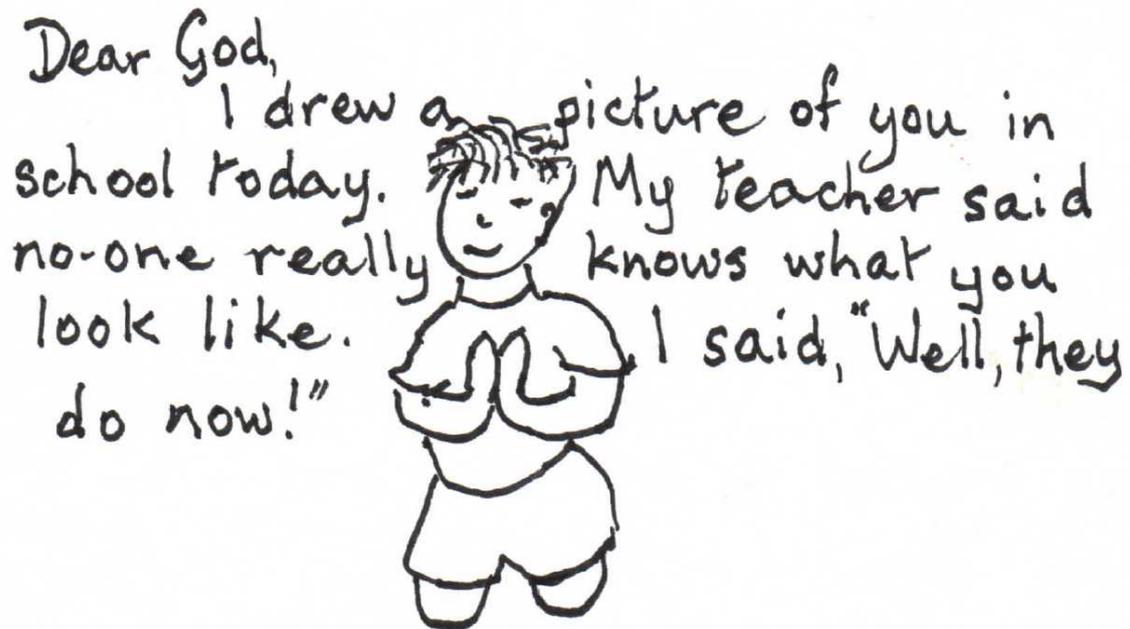
# THE CONKER REVOLUTION

A few years ago whilst walking around the walls of the lovely little town of Lucca in Italy I was struck by the beautiful shiny conkers lying under the long row of horse chestnut trees. These lovely trees line the walkway. It was "after school" time for the children of Lucca and like most youngsters they were tearing along on their bikes between those of us who were strolling. To my amazement they rode past those gleaming conkers quite oblivious of them lying there. I suddenly realised that Italian kids do not know how to play conkers.

My mind switched to the horse chestnuts that line the bottom of our (and our neighbours') gardens and I knew that the Cowley children would be throwing up sticks climbing the trees, even climbing on to the roof of our garage to claim the biggest and best conkers for their games. That was about ten years ago.

Last year and certainly this year not one single child has been conker hunting in our part of Cowley. I have not even seen tiny children hunting in the grass under the trees for, what I always thought of as, hidden treasure. What has happened? Do our children no longer play the age-old game with a conker on a string? Is it because "ealf-an-safety" has banned it in school playgrounds? Is it a cultural thing and our families from other countries do not even know what "conkers" mean? Isn't it a shame?

I know that in some parts of England there are conker championships but the participants for these seem to be grown men harking back to childhood days. I don't know what we can do about it. I guess it is the march of time and changing fashions but it is a revolution which I am sad to see.



## CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT – ST FRANCIS'

We are very grateful for the way Howard and others from the Cowley Ministry Team have supported St Francis' in times of difficulty due to the illness of our team vicar, Susannah. Our prayers have been answered and she is now much better and beginning to take part in the services.

A very big thank you to all the dedicated and committed people who have prepared the church so beautifully for Sunday worship. The main hall continues to be well used by members of the local community. The Emergency Food Bank provides food to people in need who are very grateful for the donated food. Friends of St Francis meet every second Tuesday in the month at 2.30 pm with an active programme – this is open to anyone who wishes to join.

We would like to decorate the main hall of the church when the church is not in use - estimates are being obtained for this and steps are being taken to obtain a faculty for this. It will be necessary to use scaffolding for health and safety purposes but the height of the hall makes this a daunting task. The beams will not be touched, just dusted to remove the cobwebs, and will be well protected when the painting is taking place.

The drain at the front of the church was blocked in August and although this was cleared further investigation through a CCTV survey has shown that the drain from the church to the road needs to be repaired and this is being arranged. We have been advised that parking on the front apron should be

discouraged so we are asking everyone to use the car park at the back of the church.

The Fun Day which took place recently was organised by Catherine and Velma and went quite well. There was the usual faithful group of stall holders who had worked hard to make and prepare things to sell on the day. There were plenty of homemade cakes and some very original sweets made by Shirley and Lyn which were popular with the children. There was also a very attractive craft stall, face painting, plant stall with green peppers almost ready for cooking, a duck pond and bouncy castle, and many other stalls. All the ingredients were there for a good day, and it was enjoyed by all who took part, but unfortunately a lot of people were still on holiday and there was another event in the area. Takings were down from last year when we made £230 – one reason for this was that this year we had to pay for the hiring of the bouncy castle which last year had been donated.

St Francis' bring and share lunch went very well. It is amazing to see the food provided on the tables – thanks be to God there is always enough.

Our next big event will be the 80th Anniversary of St Francis Church, which takes place next year. A Committee is being formed to make plans to celebrate this occasion.

We have a beautiful church. Please pray for us to overcome obstacles. We thank God for this beautiful place where we can worship.

**Norah Shallow**

# Project in the Projects

# XLP

Hello all! This is Katie Thornton, giving you an update on my work with XLP. It's a Christian charity, based in urban London, working with kids who have challenging personal lives, whether through difficulties at home or a lack of success at school. The charity's aim is to gently guide them to Christ, and I am spending my gap year working with this organisation.

My work is split three ways. A third of the time I help develop the youth programme in my placement Church. Another third is spent in youth outreach through schools and youth centres, and the final third includes theological and youth work training, which will culminate in an NVQ in Youth Ministry.

One child I work with is a young girl from Poland. Her ability to speak the English language is impressive, given that she never received formal lessons; however she is very behind in reading and writing. To help her with this, I decided to try and learn Polish... believe me when I say that this was an overly optimistic goal! The introductory vocabulary I studied was set in an airport, and consequently, every morning when I see my new friend, I brightly say "Paszport prosze," and she looks up at me, wondering why I demand to see her passport!

Another way we meet young people is through our bus project: XLP has converted a double-decker bus into an entertainment centre, filled with computers and electronic game stations. We take it to the different estates to get to know kids. Sometimes when a young person gets seated at a computer, they don't really care about bonding with youth workers! Here follows an (attempted) conversation:

Me: Hello

Her: ...Uh.... Oh, hi.

Me: I'm Katie, what's your name?

Her: [long pause, before finally glancing up]

Nikaleama

Me: Wow, what a cool name. Could you say it

again?

Her: [quickly]

Nikaleama.

Me: ...Oh... [pause] So what do you think of the bus?

Her: It's alright I guess.

[Bearing in mind, the bus cost over £70,000 to convert, and she just referred to it as 'alright'!]

Initially I found it frustrating that lots of these kids were more interested in socialising with each other than getting to know us, but over the next few weeks I realised that we're not there to be super-heroes who rescue the kids from their challenging lives; it's about showing consistency, because that's something they rarely see. And sure enough, after several more awkward conversations with Nikaleama, we've now reached the stage where she will sit with me and show me pictures of her family and friends from her mobile phone. And I'm so grateful that she's finally begun to open up to me, and I'm excited to see how our relationship progresses, but for now I'm happy to put it in God's hands, and say "I'm not going to force this anymore. You let it unfold how you want it to," and trust that He knows what he's doing.

With that in mind, I'm going to sign off by leaving you a few lines from Chris Tomlin's worship song, "God of this city," and ask that you pray these lines thinking about East London:

You're the God of this city, You're the King of these people, You're the Lord of this nation; You are. There is no-one like our God. Greater things have yet to come, greater things are still to be done in this city. Greater things have yet to come, greater things are still to be done in this city.

A very big "Thank you!" to the people who have supported this project. If you would like to help, either by a one-time donation or a monthly contribution, please speak with Joan Coleman.

## OXFORD CITY BRANCH OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

October 2nd dawned bright and warm, a perfect autumn day for bell ringing. St James' ringers are part of the Oxford City and District Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of church bell ringers and it was the City Branch's turn to host the annual 6 bell striking competition. The Oxford Diocesan Guild stretches from Burford in the west to Ivinghoe in the east, and Claydon in the north to Sandhurst in the south and comprises many, many ringers and dozens of towers.

Every ten years or so, the City Branch has to host the competition and we chose St James as the venue because the church rooms are the best in the area – and the bells are just tricky enough to ring to set the most accomplished ringers a bit of a challenge.

There were nine teams with some very experienced ringers taking part. The judges were safely shut in the church noting every little trip and error that the ringers made, while the competing bands listened intently to every piece of ringing. There was plenty of time to enjoy the delicious spread provided by the Cowley ringers, copious cakes, sandwiches and refreshing cups of tea.

The local band came third, which was not a bad effort but not good enough to beat the band in second place from Shrivenham, or the winners from Drayton St Leonard whose lovely ringing really deserved to win the cup.

The competition will not be held in Oxford again for quite a while – perhaps next time St James' very own band, with Jamie in charge, will take the trophy!

## *CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT: Food*

Last month I was asked to decorate the kitchen area of St James Church Centre. It needed a smarten-up after 5 years of constant use and this also happens to be part of my normal paid work. I was careful to avoid painting the many fixtures and utensils so they all had to be removed from the room in preparation.

To my surprise a day later I discovered that a red knob half way up the wall which I had supposed was a panic fire alarm button was in fact really just the top of an old coffee jar which someone had cleverly stuck to the wall to avoid the fridge door turning the light switch off when opened! I removed it. When finally the frustration does get to someone taking a pint of milk from the fridge and finding the lights go out and they decide to stick something on the wall could it please be a blue coffee jar lid!

As part of our studies in my fellowship group we have looked at "Give us this day our daily Bread" in the Lord's prayer and it struck me I really ought to find out more about what is being done in our Parish to help those in need of the basics of food in the form of the Food Bank and the CEF café at St Francis Church. Many of us have been encouraged to give dried or tinned food. I gave them a visit.

From the friendly staff I found out that there are many churches and organisations that together have donated food and this is taken and stored at a large warehouse and distributed from St Francis church twice a week. What I didn't know was that the recipients are referred from various social services and usually do not turn up cold on the door so to speak and that they are then able to claim up to max three visits. Each visitor is further interviewed in a friendly café environment to establish their food preferences and made welcome. They are then given several mixed food bags according to the size of family.

This service really seems to meet the temporary needs of an individual or family caught between the gaps of social provision. I would urge you to continue to support this practical organisation that operates from St Francis Church and check on the CEF website. The harvest festival has given them a good boost but I understand items most needed are tinned vegetables, meat and cereals and not so much of the pasta please.

**Dave Stanley**

## NOTABLE DATES IN NOVEMBER

### 4th November 1605

The gunpowder plot was uncovered in the cellars of Westminster. King James I was due to open Parliament the next day but acting on a tip-off a search was made beneath the House of Lords where Guy Fawkes was discovered with 36 barrels of gunpowder.

### 8th November 1602

Britain's oldest and most famous library was open. Oxford's Bodleian Library has flourished and increased year by year since then.

### 11th November 1918

The Armistice was signed ending the First World War. The surrender was completed at 5 am in a railway carriage in the forest of Compiègne.

### 15th November 1922

The first ever BBC news broadcast was transmitted from Bush House in The Strand in London.

### 20th November 1947

Princess Elizabeth, heir to the throne, was married to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in Westminster Abbey. Their wedding cake weighed 500lbs!

### 26th November 1922

The tomb of the Egyptian King Tutankhamen was opened after being sealed for 3,250 years. The archaeologist, Howard Carter, when he had made a hole in the door told his companions that he could see "wonderful things".

### 30th November 1936

At 8 o'clock at night the Crystal Palace in London caught fire. It had been built for the Great Exhibition of 1851. Thousands flocked to see the spectacular flames which burnt the palace to the ground.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2010

No Cowley Proms this summer but all you keen concert fans and your friends will be pleased to put Saturday, 11th December in your diaries especially when I tell you what treats we have in store for this year's Christmas concert.

Ken Membury says he's looking forward to returning with the Jubilee Brass Band. Not only are they planning some special pieces arranged for the band but they are also going to include some jolly, Christmassy songs for us all to sing (words printed in the programme).

The Oxfordshire Children's Choir, conducted by Liz Stock, are bringing some of their Christmas repertoire and a talented group of young musicians will also play for us. Last, but by no means least, Morag Crowther who led the singing in the Prom last year so beautifully was delighted to be asked to join us. She will be singing a wide selection of songs.

After the concert, supper (with a Christmas theme) will be served in the Church Centre. The cost of the concert and supper will be only £12 per ticket. As Christmas Day will be only a fortnight away this will be a lovely way to get the season off with a bang.

Of course it all takes place in St James Church beginning at 7.30 pm. Tickets will be on sale from 15th November. Box office number 453257.

I read  
In a book  
That a man  
Called Christ  
Went about  
Doing good.  
It is very disconcerting  
That I  
Am so easily satisfied  
With just  
Going about

**Kagawa**

*Submitted by Thelma Telling*



# Sunday Services

## ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

Every fourth Sunday: *Church at the Centre*

Every third Sunday: *Sunday Lunch*

## ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am Parish Eucharist

## Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday 8.15 am Morning Prayer – St James  
2.30 pm Parish Mothers' Union –  
St James (3rd Mon)

Tuesday 8.15 am Morning Prayer – St James  
10.00 am Seashells Toddler Group : St James  
12.00 pm Eucharist – St James  
12.30 pm Tuesday Lunch Club – St James  
2.30 pm Friends of St Francis –  
St Francis (2nd & 4th)

Wednesday 8.15 am Morning Prayer – St James  
9.15 am Morning Prayer – St Francis

Thursday 8.15 am Morning Prayer – St James

Friday 8.15 am Morning Prayer – St James  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer – St James

## Home Groups

Leader	Time / Venue
Una Dean	Alternate Monday mornings at 10:30 in Una's home
Connie Uren:	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 in St James Church Centre Lounge
Friends of St Francis: (John Streeve/Moll Oliver)	Tuesday alternate afternoons at 1:30 in St Francis Church
Tony Beetham	Alternate Tuesday evenings at 7:30 in St James Church Centre Lounge
Patrick Gilday:	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in St Francis Church upper room
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10:30 in St James Church Centre Lounge
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30 in Mark's home

**The Parish of Cowley office in St James Church Centre is open**

Tuesday 12.30 pm to 3 pm  
Friday 9.00 am to 3 pm  
and by appointment.

Parish Secretary:  
**Elaine Ulett**

Ministry Team Telephone:  
01865 747 680  
parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk

Team Rector  
**Revd Howard Thornton**  
Cowley Rectory  
11 Beauchamp Lane  
Oxford OX4 3LF  
Howard has Friday as his day off.

Team Vicar  
**Revd Susannah Reide**  
27 Don Bosco Close  
Oxford OX4 2LD  
Susannah has Monday as her day off.

Associate Priest  
**Revd Richard Chand**  
richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Non-Stipendiary Ministers  
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