

CH _ _ CH – means nothing unless U R in it.

Being a vicar or a member of the PCC comes with certain privileges. For instance, sitting on my desk right now are copies of the Cowley Chronicle for the year 2019! This is not fortune telling, or divination. It is the result of some creative thinking about our parish vision and purpose.

Our parish vision is “to live out God’s purpose for us, to make Christ known in Cowley, and to raise up a new generation to love and serve the Lord.” On previous PCC Away Days we have considered and prayed to discern God’s purpose for the church in Cowley. We believe we are called to **fellowship** (belonging to God and to each other), **discipleship** (to be students of Christ in order to think and act with Christ as our model), **worship** (to learn to praise and worship God and to magnify his name), **ministry** (to be ministers of God’s grace in Cowley and throughout the world), and evangelism (to be messengers of the good news of God’s love). Over the last two years I have written and spoken to and encouraged everyone in the parish to think about and discuss our purposes.

With a sense that we understand something about God’s vision for this parish and the reasons (purposes) he has called us into existence, we began to wonder,

“What would our lives be like if we planned and worked toward actually living out God’s vision and purpose for

us? What kinds of things would we be doing?

How would our lives be different if we really did what God has called us to?”

Mark Oxbrow led us through a time of dreaming big dreams about the future. Three groups came up with some amazing headlines they hoped could appear in editions of the Chronicle eight years from now. Here’s a sample:

“Former Church Cowley St James School to be re-opened by distinguished old pupils.”

“New Chairs Ordered to accommodate Larger Congregations.”

“Templars Square Prayer Zone: services in church are so popular that the Anglican Asian and St James congregations have begun services in the Centre.”

“Love Cowley held in Florence Park once again was even bigger and better.”

“Church popgroup wows young people at St Francis Church service.” “Parent and Toddler groups a big success.”

It sounds like an exciting future, don’t you think? Someone said, “If you don’t plan to succeed, you plan to fail.” Our PCC Away Day encouraged the PCC to plan for success, and to visualise what we as a parish need to do to accomplish our vision. Details of the Parish of Cowley Mission Away Day are available from PCC members and at the back of both churches. Please have a look and then find out how you can get involved.

Howard

Chronicle

Cowley Team Ministry
July / August 2011

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

First let me remind you to fill in your order form, printed again this month, for your next ten issues of The Chronicle. We are sorry that we have had to ask you for another 5p a copy this time but I do hope you feel the magazine is value for money. Cost of paper has risen, as with everything else, and we must not expect the parish funds to subsidise us. If you know of anyone who would like to join our readership May Morgan can provide you with order forms for them but she must have all orders in by the end of August to guarantee the correct number of copies in September.

I have an apology to make concerning the Georgie Moore article in last month's issue. I have a feeling that several people were bewildered by the way it was printed without any editorial comment of any kind. Well the comment got lost in publication so here's a resume. I wanted to mention how the letter he printed was so typical of the fighting spirit of the reverend gentleman when he thought that there was a cause worth battling for in his parish. I think his words fairly jump off the page. As for his point about no students from our parish being offered scholarships to Christ's Hospital School, there have been at least three, all girls, in fairly recent years.

This month's Chronicle is our summer double

issue. After we have gone to press we will take our summer holiday hoping that we will at last see some real sunshine and not the watery stuff that appears between endless showers. Watch out for a sunny day on 15th July – it has special significance (see "Saint of the Month" for reference).

In parting, before we take our break, I want to thank Carol Thornton for contributing a couple of very funny joke books. From them we shall be able to regale you with some good laughs from time to time. Try this one for size.

A young priest is nervous about hearing confessions so he asks an older more experienced colleague for help. The new priest hears a few confessions and then the older priest asks him to step outside for a moment. "OK" says the older priest, "*when you hear confessions try crossing your arms across your chest, rub your chin with one hand as though in deep thought. Also try saying things like, 'I see, go on' and 'I understand'.*" The new priest takes all this on board. "And finally" says the older priest "*when you're hearing people confess their most intimate sins try to keep from slapping your knee and saying 'Wow! Cool man! So what happened next?'*"

Happy holidays, See you in September

God Bless

Rosanne

5TH COWLEY GUIDES

We have been busy taking part in Girl Guiding Anglia's 40th Birthday Challenge. Guiding in the UK. is split into regions. We are in Anglia which has ten areas. The challenge involves different activities from each area in the region. For Lincolnshire South we cooked and ate Lincolnshire sausages, Suffolk, made cardboard crabs and fishing rods for hook a crab.

Other challenges have been natural pictures, mosaics and lots more. We have had outdoor meetings at Jubilee House, Beckley, the second one having to be cancelled due to the weather, but Blackbird Leys Guides let us use their hall for that night. We have three Guides who have nearly completed their Baden-Powell Challenge. The unit will also be camping this summer at Hardiman Fields, Shipston on Stour. Although a small number we have decided to still hold the camp.



IT'S A CELEBRATION – AND YOU ARE INVITED!

Ahhh summertime in the Parish of Cowley. It conjures up a season of warm breezes, refreshing glasses of iced lemon aid, relaxing times enjoying the company of friends and loved-ones and celebrating all the ways God blesses us. You are invited to the St James Day celebration, service and luncheon on Sunday 24 July. Come along, and invite a friend to the church services at 8:00 and 10:00; breakfast at 9:00 and lunch/ barbeque at 12:30 in the St James Church Centre. Please be sure to sign up at the back of the church so we'll sure to have plenty of great food ready for you. We can't guarantee the weather (after all St James was one of the Sons of Thunder) but we do promise a good time. So, blow up the balloons! Get out the party crackers! And be a part of the St James Day festivities Sunday 24 July.

HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE 2011

The date for Ride and Stride day this year is Saturday, 10th September. June Smith is our new parish organiser and has asked The Chronicle to inform readers that sponsor forms, posters etc will be available at St Francis and St James churches throughout August. If you are unable to actually ride or stride don't forget that you can sponsor those who are. "Meet and Greeters" will also be needed on the day in both churches – watch out for the rotas. It is great fun to do and you meet some lovely people.



COWLEY PROMS 2011

Plans are well under way for the return of this popular evening. As before, the music will include many well-known pieces plus a few surprises. The final section will, of course, be a mixture of traditional songs, flag-waving and audience participation.

This will be the third "prom" concert staged in St James' Church, which is preceded by a magnificent buffet supper, with champagne, in the Church Centre. The price of the tickets is being held at the same price as two years ago, namely £18. They are limited to just 120 (the maximum seating capacity of the church). Tickets include a programme, a little flag to wave and a treat during the interval. Bigger flags can, of course, be brought along.

Tickets will be on sale throughout July and August – box office 'phone: 453257.

The concert will take place on Saturday, September 24th, beginning with a champagne buffet at 6 pm.

Knitting for Age UK Oxfordshire

Once again we are asking you to pick up your needles and knit little hats for the Innocent Smoothies. (We know that many of you have been knitting all year for various charities also.) These little hats are easy and can involve even more knitters.

Last year we helped to raise an amazing £2,894.25 to go towards the Information and Advice Helpline for older people. This year we are aiming to get 18,000 hats which will sit on innocent Smoothie bottles in Sainsbury's stores from 3rd November. Each be-hatted Smoothie sold will generate 25p for Age UK. The deadline is 14th October. So get knitting, please.

Joyce and Diana

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

8 August 2010 Alexander Dunlop-West

9 January 2011 Greta Callaghan

13 February 2011 Jotham Kaaya

13 March 2011 Oliver Webb

10 April 2011 Honor Stanmore

Weddings

20 November 2010 James Saunders and Annabelle Robineau

29 January 2011 Andrew Saunders and Ci Zhao

6 March 2011 Mr and Mrs Davies (Renewal of Marriage Vows)

26 March 2011 James Sherriff and Kym Harris

26 March 2011 Matthew Trinder and Simone Palmer

4 June 2011 Craig Logan and Allison Powis

Funerals

10 September 2010 Arthur Robert Haynes

5 October 2010 Patricia Margaret John

21 October 2010 Ethel Joyce Retter

15 November 2010 Gwendoline Mary McArdle

22 December 2010 Ernest Green

19 January 2011 Hetty De Ste Croix Masterton

4 February 2011 Margaret Anna Jefferies

7 February 2011 Alfred John Lee

11 February 2011 Gwendoline Mary Whyte

11 April 2011 Doris Lilian Holton

27 April 2011 Doreen June Whareham

12 May 2011 Rose Margaret Smith

16 June 2011 Franz De Vere Stevens

17 June 2011 Marjorie Pipkin

FONT COVER

Extract from the Cowley Chronicle April 1967

The new font cover recently dedicated by Fr Hathaway at St James' Church. The cover was given as a memorial to the late Mrs Ada Butterfield, widow of the late Robin (Bob) Butterfield and the dedication was attended by her family and friends – Mrs J O Macandrew of Ayr, her daughter and her sons Alec, Cyril and Basil Butterfield.



PICNICS AND BARBECUES

Picnic is a lovely word,
It speaks of sunshine days,
Of sunlit meadows, river banks
And blue hills in the haze.
Barbecue's a busy word
Of smokey scents and flavours
Of friends and family sharing fun,
A tasty meal to savour.
Now Jesus was a picnic man
"Let them sit down in the sun,
No Food?" He told his followers,
"Let's see what can be done."
So all those thousands picnicked,
On that miraculous day,
And went home full and happy,
Though how they couldn't say.
And He was good at barbecues,
Remember the one by the shore?
His friends had fished their hearts out,
Wanting breakfast, tired and sore.
So whenever we have our friends round,
The children chase balls in the sun,
And we hand out the French bread and salad,
And pop a cork just for fun.
When old folk doze and tell stories
And everyone's quaffing a drink
Let's lift our hearts up to heaven
He'd like what we're doing, I think.

Rosanne Butler

Gardening

Are we satisfied? Have we had enough? RAIN! We always grumble, but then it never seems to come exactly when we decide we want it. So now we have weeds galore to keep under control. Hoe carefully, some of them might be free plants!

The lawns need regular cutting. Especially trim the edges - it makes such a difference.

Some roses need dead-heading, unless they will have lovely hips later on. It is not too late to sow carrots and lettuce along with spring cabbage, turnips and various oriental leaves. Feed containers with half tomato feed every 2 weeks, and of course feed the tomatoes.

The slugs are out again. Did you know that penstemons are slug resistant? Not much else is. Other pests include the cabbage butterflies. Pick the caterpillars off, or hose them off - no need for chemicals. This is the time to be vigilant about potato blight which also turns tomato plants brown. Bordeaux mixture is one chemical which I will use when necessary.

One tip to help in the fight against blight is not to allow water to get on the foliage when watering. I am not going out with an umbrella when it rains,

however much the cat would like me to!

A nice job now is to harvest the herbs which you like. Dry them or freeze them. I place parsley, basil and mint (separately) in labelled polythene bags in the freezer. Then some time later I crunch them up ready for use. This is my lazy way. I also like drying things, herbs, lavender, helichrysum, statice, and nigella and poppy seed pods. Other seeds can be collected in paper bags ready for next year- free plants! More seeds can be collected next month, cleaned (by blowing the chaff away) and stored in the dry.

So we will be busy this month, and also next month. Don't think that you can have a holiday - there are lots of things to do. Prune the soft fruits, clip the santolina and the lavender, prune the pyracantha to expose the berries and shape the bush before it takes over, and take semi-ripe cuttings of plants including lavender, rosemary and sages. Also pick your produce regularly, courgettes, beans, tomatoes, fruits etc. etc.

Enjoy the fresh air the scents, colours and tastes of summer.

Diana Pope

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Marlene and I, as newly elected representatives of St Francis on the local Synod, attended our first meeting at Littlemore Church recently. The attractive and very able lady minister there introduced herself, welcomed us all, and then gave us a short resume of the work being done there to move the church forward in these difficult times.

After a hymn, a bible reading, and prayers, we then got down to the serious purpose of the meeting, which was introduced by the Area Dean, the rector of St Clements. He, along with the Lay Chairman, was responsible for the conduct of the meeting. Our main topic of discussion was the vexed question of Women Bishops. Not the acceptance of them (which has already been done by General Synod) but what contingency arrangements could be made to accommodate those who felt that they could not and would not accept this move. We were also asked for feedback on the feelings of our congregations on the matter.

The Dean gave a very clear and concise picture of the thinking of the powers that be on this issue. We then broke into smaller groups to think about it. We soon found that it was an area riddled with problems and pitfalls, with no easy answer. We decided that whatever moves made in this direction, the position of the Women Bishops would inevitably be undermined in some way. Would the idea of flying Bishops of the male gender to those in contention really work? We were not able to come to a clear consensus, except to say that we all wished to avoid a huge split in our church with a general exodus of those disaffected people to other churches.

John and Marlene Shreeve

God in my life...

When the editor of this magazine asked me if I would contribute a few written words about what God has done in my life I was filled with consternation; not that I would not have anything to say but a worry as to what out of all the wonderful things God has done for me in my life I should write about. It was a humbling moment; bringing my mind to a fresh reawareness of all God's grace to me whilst at the same time being aware of my absolute unimportance and unworthiness in the face of such grace.

But amongst all the things that God has done for me I would like to share with you the gift of a particular sunset. I grew up in a family that had a very mild religious undertone in that I was taught the Lord's prayer as a child and we attended church on Christmas Day, Easter Sunday and Events - Christenings or Funerals as they cycled around and that is as far as it went for us in those days. As a young man growing up in the eighties, under Thatcher's hounds of Mammon, I knew that there was more to existence than just earning money, having a few kids and then dying - finito.

I knew there had to be another spiritual and yet more real component in life. I experimented with philosophies, theologies and ideas from the new age spiritualist stuff through to Buddhism and even some shaolin kung-fu. In my mid to late twenties I was in Thailand, attending an international Buddhist meditation centre, subsequently I had to cross the southern border to Penang in Malaysia to renew my visa.

Malaysia, though a Muslim country, is very tolerant and Penang, being an old colonial trading city is full of ethnic minorities; each with their own faith. There are Taoist temples, Hindu temples, Sikh temples, Muslim mosques, Jewish synagogues (I think), places that you are not quite sure what you are looking at (though probably one of the above) and a smallish whitewashed Christian Church. So with a day to spare I decided to visit the lot. Starting out early I came first to the Christian Church, "I know what is in there I thought I'll go there later", so continuing on I visited Muslim mosques (washing my feet before entry, etc, bowed

down and said a few prayers, Buddhist Temples full of Golden Statues who got some prayers too, as did the Taoist warrior idols and their paraphernalias of weapons; both got some incense I think.

I caught the cable car up the hill in the afternoon and visited Hindu and Sikh shrines. Well the sun sets quickly in the tropics and before I knew it I was back down by Queen Victoria's clock tower and it was time to go back to the hotel for a beer. As I turned away to head down the road I noticed that the Christian Church, having been hit full on by the sunset, had turned a deep blood red. Looking across I felt I should go over and have a look but the evening heat and the open bar (still available in Penang) called me away. "It's too late" I thought "I can go to church anytime" and turning my back I headed off down the road.

Well six weeks later I came to Jesus as my God and Saviour, the Son who dwells in the Father and who breathes life constantly into all creation, through the Holy Spirit as the word of God; even to that which is in rebellion for it's God's will that none be lost and no soul in Heaven, nor upon Earth, is enriched by the loss of any, but by the gain of even one there is great joy and enrichment to us all. I now know that without the blood of Christ there can be no new start, no rebirth, no salvation; that our dialogue with God is conditional upon the recognition of the most sacred sacrifice of his Son. The depth of love in Christ's blood, it's agony and its unconditional surrender to all that would tear it and cause it agony, that it may in turn, through laws evil will never understand, destroy and defeat all that would seek to tear and destroy us, is not something that can be passed over or walked around in the world beyond.

Whilst I believe people of many faiths will reach Heaven, I also believe none will get there without looking upon and understanding and claiming the protection of that rich ruby river that flows with love from paradise. For me it flowed through the sunset onto a church and waited there till I could understand.

May God bless you always.

Matt Emerson

The Origins of Cowley

Part Thirteen : Taking Shape

As we reach the end of the Middle Ages our three small rural villages are beginning to establish themselves as three definite entities, each with its own character and linked to each other with a series of paths, roads and bridleways. Hockmore Street (later named Middle Cowley) the largest of the three turned its face to Iffley and was connected to its parent village by a dragway along the gravelled terrace above the slope falling away to The Marsh. There was also an old footpath along what is now Church Cowley Road. There were a number of wealthy families living in the hamlet including the Kersingtons, the Amory family and the Burgans. One rich member of the latter family left, in his will, all his property to Iffley Church thus connecting the Cowley and Iffley parish charities right up to the present day.

Temple Cowley, of course, had its preceptory within which was sited the old Manor House. This fronted on to Oxford Road, known in those days as Berrye Lane. This lane, or road, continued towards Garsington. At the corner of Temple Road and Berrye Lane stood the Stocks Tree. Right into the fifteenth century the village stocks were a common form of punishment meted out by the manorial court to those villagers in the community who were too impoverished to pay a fine for their misdoings. I understand that even after the stocks went out of commission the large tree on that corner (always known as the Stocks Tree) acted as an ideal notice-board for all manner of public announcements right up until the twentieth century. Two rich families emerged in Temple Cowley in the fifteenth century: the Whites and the Redheads, both considerable landowners and both collecting taxes from their tenant farmers. The road called Hollow Way led to a southerly extension of Hockmore Street, continued as Church Path, now known as The Grates and then turned into Redhead Lane on its way to Iffley. The Grates, by the way, probably got its name from a man named Thomas Grate who owned two adjoining cottages on the corner of Barns Road.

There are more interesting old roads in Temple Cowley dating from the fifteenth century. The top part of Temple Road was named Butchers Lane where there still stands an old cottage traditionally known as the "slaughterhouse". At the bottom of Temple Road there was a row of cottages with the end skirting the ditch known as Pytlesfurlong. There

seems to be no record as to who Pytles was but obviously he had a good furlong of land which was never affected by drought. From there a driftway ran from the Marsh to Bullingdon Green (important common grazing land). The other way to reach the Green was along Salegate Lane which at that time took a sharp turn to run parallel with Hollow Way. At the end of this lane was a gate where villagers with no access to hay could buy some from the common. The gate also became an important meeting point where informal deals and trading took place. Church Cowley established itself around the Church of St James, though its lands stretched down to the Plain. One of its wealthy assets was its mill right down by the Milham Ford. The water meadows almost up to where Donnington Bridge now stands were also farmed by Cowley villagers. In the centre of the village ran Church Street and Cwrle Lane (now Crowell Road). Despite its strange early spelling the land it crossed probably belonged to William Crowell. Much of the land just above the Marsh was grazed by sheep, wool being a valuable source of income in those days. I mentioned the Pulker family in last month's article but there is a story in the old records which shows that by the fifteenth century they were a little above themselves. At the manorial court Walter Pulker was fined for "carrying crops and cattle across other tenants' land and for over-burdening the pasture by 300 sheep".

The church was extended at this period in history quite considerably. The squat tower was added with five bells installed. The porch was another extension and very welcome too one would imagine as baptisms and weddings were conducted at the church door and a downpour of rain could ruin a family gathering there to say nothing of a bride's best dress! The nave of the church was also extended to accommodate a growing population. So there they stand the three villages of Cowley. It would seem that they were barely touched by the plague which ran like wildfire through many towns and villages. The villagers took their produce to Oxford market, they worshipped at the parish church and let much of the political connivances and other historical events of the big wide world pass them by. The manorial court, formerly mentioned, was the local force for justice and we shall hear more of that in the next episode. But one momentous event was about to affect Cowley in quite a big way.

Rosanne Interviews Gillian Argyle

This month I would like to introduce you to a lady whose name will be unfamiliar to all but two or three of our entire parish. She does not live in Cowley, she does not worship at either of our churches and in fact has not ever entered the door of St James' Church at all. So you are thinking, I guess, what on earth possessed me to choose her as our July/August interviewee. Well, I hope as we go along that all will become clearer.

First of all she is a regular volunteer for the Community Foodbank at St Francis. The first time she stepped into the church she fell in love with the lovely art-deco paintings on the beams and when she discovered that the architect for the entire building was in fact T. Lawrence Dale she was smitten. You see she is the diocesan expert on twentieth century decoration, design and textiles and is an authority on no less a person than T. Lawrence Dale.

She talks enthusiastically about the three other churches in Oxford also designed by Dale, namely St Swithun's in Kennington, St Albans in East Oxford and St Michael and All Angels in Marston. Readers who know these churches will, I am sure, reflect on the fact that they all seem to have the same "feel" about them so similar to St Francis.

But back to Gillian. As her father taught at Harrow School and her mother was a housekeeper at the school she was born at Harrow-on-the-Hill, the youngest child in the family. Her sisters were quite a few years older so she told me she had a rather lonely childhood. It was no surprise that she should

grow up with a knowledge and love of old buildings since much of the family holidays were taken up with visits to the wonderful country houses, churches and other architectural beauties of Britain. They would camp and explore many lovely areas throughout the summer. It is also not surprising that Gillian should develop a career in art and design as she had two maiden aunts who both painted and who frequently took her to art exhibitions as much for her pleasure as her education. In fact almost all her family are in the world of art and design. Gillian grew up with the ambition to be an architect.

Her 'A' level exam results opened the door to teacher training at Homerton Training College.

She went on to teach English language and literature in secondary schools for thirty-four years. At the age of 45 she gained a masters' degree at Brookes University in Victorian architecture and decorative art. She returned to teaching and made Oxford her home twenty seven years ago.

She met her husband at a luncheon party. He was a most eminent psychologist, "the Daddy of Social Psychology" as Gillian put it. He was Professor Michael Argyle. When they met he had recently been widowed. A warm friendship developed between them and after ten months they realised they were in love and weeks later were married. It turned out to be a very important decision, not to waste time. After two years of idyllic marriage with lots of fun with this deeply Christian man, Gillian herself was widowed. Michael died from a brain tumour. The incredible

thing is that she can talk about this period of her life with so much affection telling me how lucky she has been to have known such happiness. As a result of her marriage she has inherited four adult step-children and nine step-grandchildren to whom she is really close.

After she had lost Michael, Gillian decided to take early retirement from teaching and turn to her life-long interest in architecture. She became involved in the Oxford Civic Society which is responsible for the development of Oxford. Along with six other members she sits on the City planning committee. Gillian is their expert on twentieth century buildings and interiors. This necessitates quite a lot of travelling around our area as she told me that about 15 to 20 planning applications a month are sufficiently complicated to require a visit.

A phone call from the Bursar of Woolson College, who heads the Council for the Historic Churches Trust, offered her a place on the council. Obviously her expertise on buildings is invaluable when decisions over grants have to be made. Incidentally she was very impressed when I was able to tell her how much we, as a parish, have raised in our Ride and Stride efforts over the years and how we open our churches every September without fail.

Gillian is also on the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee for the care of churches. Her particular specialism is the care of stained glass, textiles, colour schemes etc pertaining to the twentieth century. This committee is the ecclesiastical equivalent of planning permission which in the

Church is known as the granting of a faculty. Anyone in our parish who has ever been on the PCC or a church committee will know quite a lot about faculties!

With her husband she was formerly on the PCC of St Mary the Virgin Church in The High. However she now worships at St Andrew's, Linton Road close to where she lives. Her home in Portland Road is a delight, so full of colour. Even before she greets you at the door you know that she loves flowers, they fill her garden. Pots of flowering plants fill the steps up to the door. Then you walk into a house where every possible wall and surface has a mixture of modern prints, beautiful porcelain plates, hand embroidered cushions and flowers. Beyond is a small garden overflowing with colour and so neat it almost calls you to go and sit on its stone bench in a vine-covered arbour.

I have invited Gillian to come and visit our other church in the parish, St James' and she assured me she would love to. However, how she is ever going to fit it in to her busy schedule I really don't know.

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

A bit lonely sometimes because my older sisters were always so busy and in a way so were my parents since they worked full-time. So that is why I became a book-worm.

Have you any special memories of childhood?

I did a lot of dressmaking even as a child. I loved the clothes I made. I got fabric from Liberty's and made dresses and skirts in fabulous colours.

Has there been anyone who has had a strong influence on your life?

I would say my husband. His influence was all entirely positive.

Has your faith been with you since you were young?

Yes. I was brought up in the Anglican Church. My father was a church warden. At about the age of fifteen I joined an evangelical group and became Christian in their way. I have been involved in lively churches ever since.

Do you have a treasured possession?

My wedding ring and all it means.

What is your opinion of present-day society?

I think there are a great many more good, honest, upright people out there than the media would like to make out.

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

I would want to do something about parenting. I want every child to be a loved child and be able to pass that love on.

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

The last twelve years. Because of Michael I have been able to give up teaching and give my time to decorative art and architecture.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Reading, lots of biographies, travelling to see buildings anywhere in the world. I enjoy going to art galleries and museums.

What plans do you have for the future?

To go on doing the same as long as I am fit and able.

MAGNIFICENT RESULT FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make our Christian Aid giving this year such a success. The totals are as follows:

Quiz evening: **£174.00**

Super soup lunch at Parish AGM: **£82.50**

Giving from schools, churches, envelopes and cakes: **£791.00**

TOTAL: £1,047.50

Yes, we managed to make over **£1,000!** Well done!!

Frank Butler



Church Warden's Report

I have been thinking about the opportunities we have to interact with those outside of our church and with the local community. One of our regular events at this time of year has been our annual Plant Sale. It has always generated a lot of interest and enthusiasm from within the church in propagating new plant life and in manning the stalls which have included selling books and jams and general bric-a-brac. We have welcomed the visitors and offered refreshments. It has generated additional funds for the church.

As part of a wider review of the missionary role we have I felt it would be useful to offer a welcome desk to this type of event to highlight some of the many activities and events St James and the Parish of Cowley offer. We printed some publicity for individual groups that could be handed out and a more general leaflet about all our activities and the church services we offer. The idea was that we could interact face to face and answer any questions people might have. We could share our faith if this seemed appropriate. Two of us sat at the desk during

the event and took turns in manning it in shifts.

While not as many as hoped came directly up to the desk there were some useful conversations, interest was shown and leaflets handed out.

How successful was it and what lessons could be learned? This is another way of planting seeds that can germinate. It is a state of mind that we think in a more missionary way.

Some of the best methods found were by circulating from person to person at the event and casually chatting then offering a leaflet appropriate to that person's needs. We should try to produce more A5 size black and white leaflets from the leaders of activities not already covered. For the future there would be opportunities at other events such as the Elder Stubbs Festival held on August 21st and the Proms.

Is this something God is speaking to you about? If you feel you could be involved with this please contact me.

Dave Stanley

The Latest from St Christopher's

The last few months have been incredibly busy here and at the end of March we came out of Special Measures!! The HMI conducted a full inspection and the final report graded the school as satisfactory with some good elements. The staff, children, parents and Interim Executive Board are delighted with this final result and we have all worked incredibly hard to make the necessary progress and changes over the last two years. We have really appreciated the positive press coverage that we have received in the last few weeks.

The Interim Executive Board held their final meeting at the end of May and we now have a Governing Body back in place. Later this year, this Governing Body will be reconstituted and we have a full membership of Governors.

Pupil progress continues to improve and we are now moving to extending the children's learning into the outside environment. There are plans for creating a stimulating and creative outdoor area for all our children to use and parents and staff are working on preparing the ground in preparation for construction work.

On the last Friday before half-term we held a whole school afternoon of dance and the PTA bought all the children an ice-cream. This was our whole school celebration for the successful end of Special Measures and many parents and friends of our school attended – a lovely time was had by all!!

Alison Holden
Head teacher

BOOK OF THE MONTH

PILGRIMAGE, BY ANDREW JONES

(BRF 2011)

Have you ever been on a pilgrimage, or considered making one? This book might encourage you to think about making one!

The author, Andrew Jones, is rector of four churches in North Wales. He regularly leads pilgrimages in the UK and abroad. In this book, he shows how pilgrimage can awaken and encourage those at all stages of belief in remembering the story of God's work in history, which tells who we are, where we have come from and where we are going.

The book concludes with a focus on eight popular places of pilgrimage in the British Isles such as Iona, Lindisfarne, and Canterbury, drawing lessons from their history and spiritual heritage and describing their impact on some modern day pilgrims the author has accompanied. I found these last stories particularly powerful in encouraging pilgrimage.

Tony Beetham

I-COWLEY INTERVIEWS

My sister and I volunteered to be interviewed by members of the I-Cowley team on our life in Cowley. Both of us were brought up in the area and I still live in the house my parents bought when they moved to Oxford in 1929. I have always felt that I am not a true Cowleyite as my father came from East Anglia and my mother from Lancashire and surrounding neighbours came from Wales, the North-East, etc. However, I was strongly reprimanded for this view!! And certainly both of us showed that we had lots of good memories of Cowley during the interviews!

Both of us agreed that it was a most enjoyable experience, and were surprised at the memories we recalled during the discussions.

We must have spent a good three hours in two sessions recounting our memories – but you will be pleased to know that this is going to be edited to 3 minutes!! However, we are looking forward to seeing what is included in the final interview.

Sally Hemsworth

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We would like to welcome you to Cowley Women's Institute. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at St James Church Centre, Cowley at 2 pm.

We had a very enjoyable outing in May to the Cotswolds. In June we enjoyed "Re-inventing your Wardrobe" (very enlightening) on how you can turn out-of-date clothes into modern fashion again. Our July meeting on the 27th is a Garden Party (weather permitting). The August meeting is an outing to Windsor.

We always have a speaker and a raffle and end a very enjoyable afternoon with a cup of tea and a biscuit.

We are always looking for new members. Why don't you come along and see what we do?

I can assure you, you will be made very welcome.

Jean Chilton

SAINT OF THE MONTH St Swithun

“St Swithun’s Day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain:
St Swithun’s Day, if thou be fair,
For forty days ‘twill rain na mair.”

So says the old rhyme as we all watched out on 15th July each year to forecast a dry and sunny school holiday. There was also a tradition that St Swithun’s Day marked “apple christening day” when the tiny fruits on the trees would begin to plump up ready for a bumper crop. However, what do we know of the saint himself?

Actually it would seem that Swithun led a quiet, educated and unassuming life. He was born in Winchester, the son of noble parents in 805AD. Winchester was at that time the capital of the ancient kingdom of Wessex. He was educated and later ordained by Helmstan, the Bishop of Winchester. When King Edgar took the throne he chose Swithun to tutor his son, Ethelwulf. He was so much appreciated by Ethelwulf that when the throne was his he made Swithun his bishop and advisor on ecumenical matters.

Described as a humble man it is said that despite the fact that he could have ridden around his diocese he chose to walk everywhere. This, of course, made him closer to his people and their needs. He spent much of his time and money keeping his churches in good repair. He also saw

the need for a bridge in one place over the river Itchen and had one built.

During his life he was reputed with only performing one miracle but far, far more, after his death. It seems eminently typical that his one living miracle was to repair a poor woman’s basket of eggs when, jostled by a workman, she had dropped them on her way to market. He died whilst still in his fifties and had already decreed that his tomb should be situated outside the west door of the Cathedral so that passers-by would tread on it.

A hundred years later, when the Viking raids on Wessex had somewhat subsided a new cathedral was built and Swithun’s body was moved into the east end of the church. This took place on 15th July 971 AD, when we are told torrential rain interrupted the elaborate ceremony. His remains were placed in a shrine whereupon so many miracles of healing occurred that the monks who tended it found themselves overwhelmed by visiting pilgrims.

His shrine was destroyed in 1538 during the Reformation though his body remained buried in the Cathedral. However, in 1962 the church authorities restored it and Winchester Cathedral now has a suitable site at which one can revere its special saint.

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN’S GROUP

Following the great success of the first Women’s Group meeting, we have now set up a regular fortnightly get-together.

As a group we shared with each other what we hoped to get from this. We all agreed we wanted to make friends, meet new people, learn new things and generally enjoy each other’s company.

We are looking forward to the future and hope this group grows and flourishes. We invite anyone who is interested to come along.

Our next get-together is on July 6th, 7.30 pm at the St James Church Centre.

Loretta

RECIPES FOR MAY

Salmon Mousse

4oz tin pink salmon – with skin and bone removed

Small tin evaporated milk

Packet of powdered gelatine

Small jar of Mayonnaise

2 to 3 tablespoons tomato ketchup

Flake the salmon

Whisk evaporated Milk till as stiff as possible

Dissolve gelatine in small amount of hot water

Fold all these ingredients together adding ketchup to taste

Pour into a mould (a ring mould looks good) and refrigerate

To serve loosen mousse from mould in bowl of hot water

The centre of the ring can be filled with peeled prawns

Decorate/garnish with lemon slices and parsley

Summer Pudding

(must be made the day before serving)

1 teaspoon butter

2lbs of summer fruits – raspberries, blackcurrants, blueberries, etc

4ozs castor sugar

½ cup of milk

8 slices of stale white bread with crusts removed

10fl.ozs of thick double cream for serving

Use the butter to grease the inside of a large pudding basin. Wash the fruits and sprinkle the sugar over them. With a teaspoon sprinkle milk, a little at a time, over the bread slices

Line the basin with bread cut to fit and slightly overlapping. Fill the middle with the sweetened fruit. Cover the top with the rest of the bread and cover with a sheet of greaseproof/baking paper

Put a plate or saucer which is slightly smaller than the top of the basin on top and weigh this down with a good heavy weight (My mum used to use her flat iron)

Refrigerate

Next day remove the weight and paper. Invert the bowl over a serving dish and give it a good shake

Serve with lots of whipped cream

NEVER ENOUGH TIME

Lord, sometimes we feel like mice on a treadmill, rushing around faster and faster – getting nowhere – and the first thing that goes out of the window is you, no time Lord, sorry! Then there are our families they should know we are busy and not ask for our time. And our friends, can't they see the things we have to do? Lord, it is at times like these we need you most, yet you seem so far away. Why Lord – where have you gone? Then we hear it, the quiet voice – “be still and know that I am God”. And we understand that we cannot hear you if we do not find the time to listen, and that we will feel alone if we do not give time to you.

We need to remember Father that it is your world and when we have done what we can, we can safely leave the rest to you.

Lord help us to make time for you in our busy lives and give us your peace.

Marlene Shreeve

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Women's Group	Wednesday, 6th July, 7.30 pm, St James' Church Centre
Mothers' Union : Summer Tea Party Bring and Share Goodies	Monday, 18 July 2011, at 3.30 pm in St James' Church.
Patronal Special Festival Service	Sunday, 24th July 2011 lunchtime : Special Festival Service followed by a barbeque at the Church Centre, with wine and goodies £5.00
Women's Institute Garden Party	Wednesday, 27th July 2011, 2pm, St James Church Centre
Ride and Stride Day	Saturday, 10th September 2011
Quiet Day	Saturday 10 September 10am to 4pm, at Stanton House, Stanton St John.
Last Night of the Proms	Saturday, 24th September 2011 at St James Church.
Mothers' Union : Wine, Cheese & Poetry Evening	Friday, 7th October 2011 at St James Church Centre

ST FRANCIS NEWS

We held the first meeting of our newly elected church committee recently, and it was conducted in a constructive and cheerful manner.

We looked back at our Special Celebratory Service and all agreed that it was a memorable and successful occasion. We looked forward to a Fund Raising event and after looking at July discarded it in favour of an Autumn Fair, probably in September, when the holidays are over and more people will be around to attend it. No firm details yet but we have an organiser.

We looked at several maintenance issues and also at the problem of the Scout Hut at the rear of the church. We established that it was definitely church property so that any renovation or rebuilding as envisaged by the Scouts, would have to have church approval.

We made a quick decision to have a simple bring and share lunch on Sunday, 26th June to say farewell to Susannah who is officially leaving us at the end of the month.

On the question of the Ministry, Patrick, our organist has now received official confirmation that he has been accepted for training for the Ministry, and will be leaving us in September. Although we knew that this was coming, the news was still a blow, doubly so with Susannah's departure imminent. He and his delightful young wife will be sadly missed for they have been very much a force for good at St Francis. Their cheerful and energetic presence has brought life and enthusiasm to our church at a time when it was much needed, and not just with the music. St Francis will be a sadder place without them.

John Shreeve

SEASHELLS

We would like to say a huge thank you to all members of the congregation who donated "Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers" to Seashells. We collected just over 2,000 and have already placed an order for some new equipment, which when it arrives will be displayed so that you can all see what we were able to exchange for the vouchers. We also thank you for the Tesco vouchers. A little over 1,100 were collected and passed onto Cowley St James School.

May Morgan

Rachel Arnatt, Jean Arnatt, Wendy and Michael wish to thank all who kindly sent cards, messages of sympathy and who came to Rachel's funeral.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JULY AND AUGUST

The 4th of July is a famous date in history. On this day in 1776 the United States declared their independence from British rule. Thomas Jefferson wrote these words which still stand today as the Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

In 1962 on the 10th July “Telstar I” was launched. It was the first telecommunications satellite making it possible for live television pictures to cross the Atlantic.

The Muslim era began on 16th July 622AD when Muhammed fled from the city of Medina in Saudi Arabia to escape persecution.

22nd July was the birthday of Rev. William Archibald Spooner. He was born in 1844. He is remembered for his famous spoonerisms which often reduced his listeners to tears of laughter. He would tell people that he was taking the “*town drain to London*” or raise his glass to “*the queer old Dean*”.

On 30th July 1966 England played Germany in the World Cup final at Wembley Stadium. Captained by Bobby Moore they won by 4 goals to 2 after extra time. It was the first and only time that England has held the World Cup.

The Royal Greenwich Observatory was founded on 10th August 1675. The Greenwich meridian (00 longitude), from which the world's time is determined, passes through the observatory.

On 16th August 1965 the Beatles were paid a record \$160,000 for a single concert appearance in New York. The screaming fans made so much noise that the group could have got away without singing or playing a note!

The first public television broadcast was transmitted in Britain on 22 August 1932.

On 29th August 1883 “The Ashes” trophy for test cricket was instituted. The tiny urn contains the ashes of the stumps and bails used in the England v Australia match played that year. Though the Ashes Test matches are still competed the original trophy is never removed from Lords cricket ground, only a replica.

In 1900 on the last day of August the first bottles of Coca-Cola arrived in Britain. The few people who tasted it were so impressed that it has been available in Britain ever since.

NOT SUNDAY

I booked a taxi to take me to the healing Service at St James', my driver was not proficient with his English. I directed him past John Bunyan and on up the hill. He drove into the Centre car park. The following conversation ensued:

“This is wrong, I want the church, this is Saint James' Church Centre, I want the church not the Centre.”

“This is place”

“No”

the Driver had me out of the car, marched me to the building and banged on a door, I think it was the garage.

“The church is down the hill a little past the cottage.”

“This is place for meetings.”

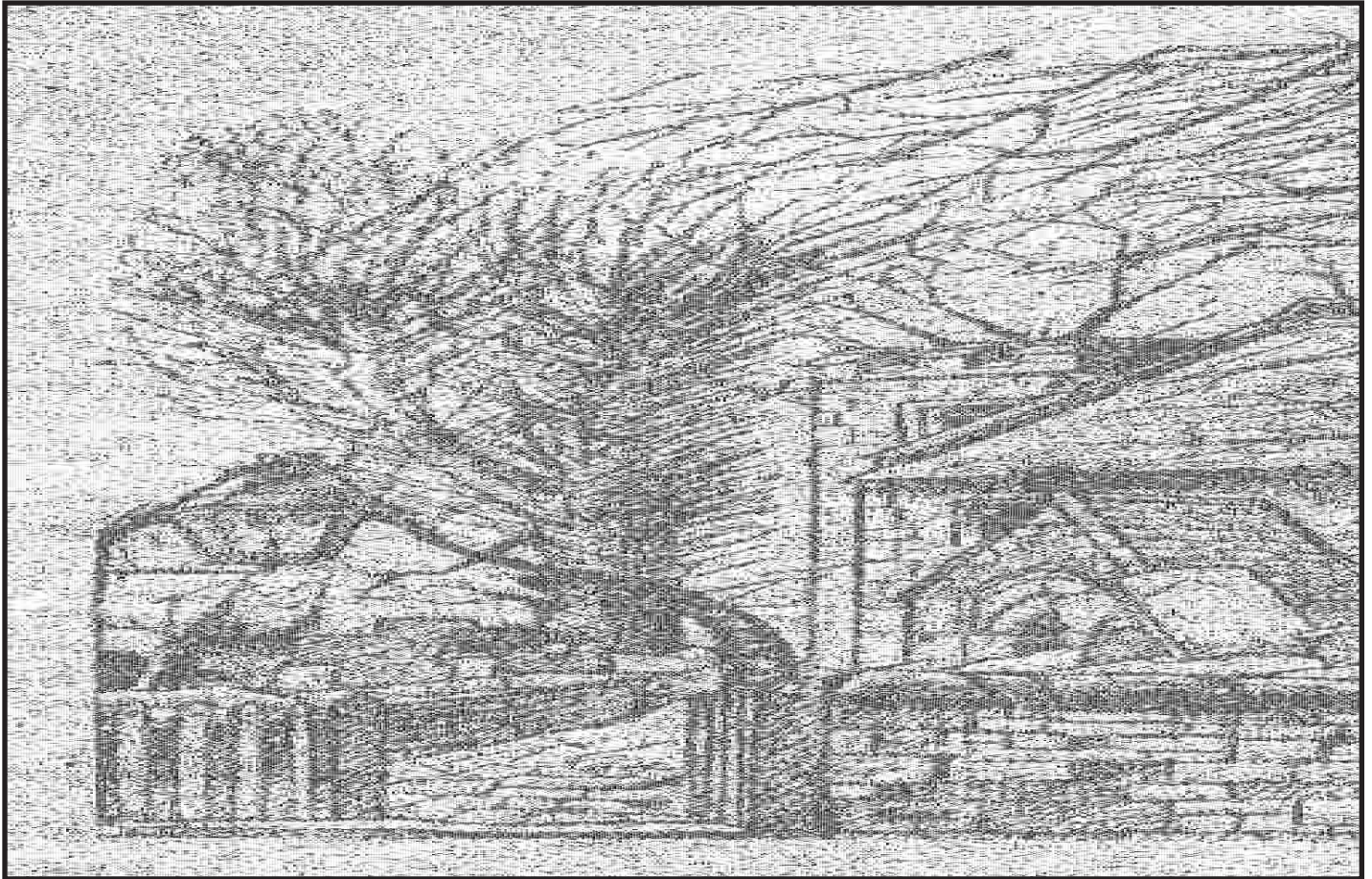
“I am not here for a meeting I have come for a church service.”

(strongly) **“NOT SUNDAY”**

Eventually I persuaded him to drive off the car park and directed him back to church. He was so remorseful that he walked me, very carefully, up the path, into the porch, down the steps and handed me over to Tony.

He was very surprised to get a tip!

Una Dean



This lovely drawing of St James Church used to appear each month on the cover of the Parish Magazine during the '30s and '40s. We thought that readers would like to see it so Les Hemsworth has cleverly restored it to its original quality. It is interesting to note the lovely old wrought iron archway with its lantern (wouldn't that be useful nowadays?) over the gateway. There are also wooden gates at the entrance. Do any of our older readers remember the entrance of the church like this? Do write and let us know. And do you recall when the arch and gates were removed?

COWLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met on the 21 June 2011 at St James Church Centre, when all members attended.

There was unanimous agreement that the post of Team Vicar should be filled, and it would now be necessary for Howard Thornton to meet with Archdeacon Julian Hubbard and other members of the diocese to draft Terms of Reference and a Job Description and develop an action plan for the advertising, interviewing and selection process. In addition, it was agreed that a Search Committee should be established with representatives from St Francis and St James Churches to interview and select a new Team Vicar.

The PCC reviewed the various maintenance issues and the action being taken to obtain a faculty to allow funding to be raised to undertake the necessary repair work on the chancel at St James. One continuing problem was broken windows at St Francis Church and as this was caused by balls coming through the trees from the adjacent Oxford City Play Area, an approach had been made for help with funding for repair work and possible replacement of windows with reinforced glass.

In addition, there was general agreement that:

- a committee should be set up to organise a Cowley Community Christmas Tree Festival
- the church community should be asked for views on how the "mission" money should be spent

There is a vacancy on the PCC, and this would be advertised in the link.

A SUFFOLK SOLILOQUY

Every day large numbers of juggernauts roar through Suffolk on their way to Ipswich and Felixstowe on the A45, intent on reaching their destination as quickly as possible. They see little of the real Suffolk which is hidden away down the byways and country lanes. Many of us ordinary travellers tend to avoid the area as being a bit off the beaten track, and inclined to be a bit chilly at times. Yet, if we do so we are missing out on a great deal, for Suffolk as a county has much to offer. It has traditionally been very much a rural farming area, and still remains largely so. Yet it is literally steeped in history, and if you are interested in church history you are spoilt for choice because there are so many fascinating religious buildings and sites to visit that one hardly knows where to begin.

Some people used to refer to it derisively as “Silly Suffolk” but that ought to be changed to “Sely Suffolk” for “sely” was an ancient word for Holy, and this county has more than its fair share of saints and holy men and women.

At Bury St Edmunds, for instance, there was one of the largest Abbeys in the land, with other monasteries and nunneries grouped nearby. At one time several kings and members of the Royal families preferred to try to live a Holy life in monasteries rather than palaces. Yet it is often the small villages tucked away in remote areas that spring the greatest surprises, and one can find a real gem of a little church hidden in the most unexpected places. Such a place was at Dennington, near Southwold, where we found in the church the alabaster tomb of a knight who had fought with Henry V at Agincourt, clad in all his armour and knightly regalia, lying beside his noble lady in her wimple and long medieval dress. The memorial was carved in white alabaster with all the medieval colours still showing. The same church had a very unusual “sand table” which was

used to teach children to write, and an ancient clock over 500 years old. Outside in the churchyard was a fine oak tree planted in memory of Sir Winston Churchill with a plaque underneath engraved with the following words – In War Resolution, In Defeat Defiance, In Victory Magnanimity, In Peace Goodwill. Stirring stuff indeed!

A number of these old churches still have the unusual round towers, which are only found in Norfolk and Suffolk. A few still have thatched roofs. However if it is seaside and beaches you are looking for. Southwold and Aldeburgh have much to offer. Quaint old villages abound in this area, with ancient thatched cottages and oak beams and colourful quaint little gardens. At Minsmere there is a fine RSPB BIRD SANCTUARY.

Newmarket has its old horse racing traditions, if you fancy a little excitement. There are plenty of estuaries and rivers if you are fond of fishing or sailing. At one of these, at “Sutton Hoo” in the south of the county, archaeologists discovered a Saxon King’s ship buried under a huge mound of earth. It contained his original armour and weapons, plus gold and silver of great value, much of it now in the British Museum in London.

There is much old folklore, folktales and old legends still linger on. Lowestoft was the biggest fishing port in the area and had a large fishing fleet, which is now greatly reduced in size. Herrings were the best money earner and provided a living for many people. In fact there is a village called “Herring Fleet” just a few miles inland from the coast.

So, all in all, if it is variety you want and something unusual, you could not do better than go eastwards, down Suffolk way.

John Shreeve

Editor: Has anyone else a favourite county about which they would like to tell our readers?

'LOVE OXFORD'

On Sunday 29th May all of Oxford's churches came together in South Park for the sixth annual 'Love Oxford' event. It may have been cold, wet and windy but the weather was easily forgotten as the atmosphere from thousands of people reminded you of the great importance of the sense of community that Love Oxford brings. New born babies to the elderly and diverse nationalities were gathered in the park to worship and praise Almighty God. The event was free, funded by donations from churches and individuals.

This year's theme was inspired by the Oscar winning film 'the Kings speech'. In the film, King George VI enlisted the help of a speech therapist to overcome a stammer, likewise Christians were told to be bold and speak out about their faith- spreading the word of God. When approaching South Park, a heart-warming sound of worship filled the streets and intrigued passers-by would wander into the crowds to see what all the excitement and joy was about. During worship, God's presence came alive and flooded our hearts. The thousands lifted their arms and projected their voices, bringing gifts of praise and worship to the Lord.

For a few hours, heaven came down to Earth and touched our hearts as we gathered in the name of Jesus. People forgot about their worries and troubles, and peace stilled the hearts of many. God's presence lay upon us like a blanket, bringing powerful warmth in the midst of wind and rain.

As well as worship and hearing God's word, children were encouraged to get up on stage and quite literally dance to the Lord. The whole event was fun and exciting and was a time for everyone to relax and enjoy fellowship regardless of age, gender, race or belief. It was encouraging to see the vast amount of people that worship God in our city and it allowed us to make friends and share our faith with fellow Christians who we would not have met otherwise.

We are already looking forward to next year's gathering in South Park and anticipate meeting more people from around the county on this great occasion.

Jason Dudley

The first mention of Christmas

It's far too early to talk about the festive season..... except we have a brand new project which needs to be started right now! It's the first Cowley Christmas Tree Festival, to be held either the weekend 2-4 or 9-11 December. Other churches, schools, organisations, shops and businesses are invited to bring and decorate a small Christmas tree, themed around their membership; there is a small charge to come and view them with proceeds to charity; refreshments are served; there will be a programme of schools/choirs/music groups singing / playing for a short time each; the Festival closes with an Advent carol service. It will be a great community outreach event.

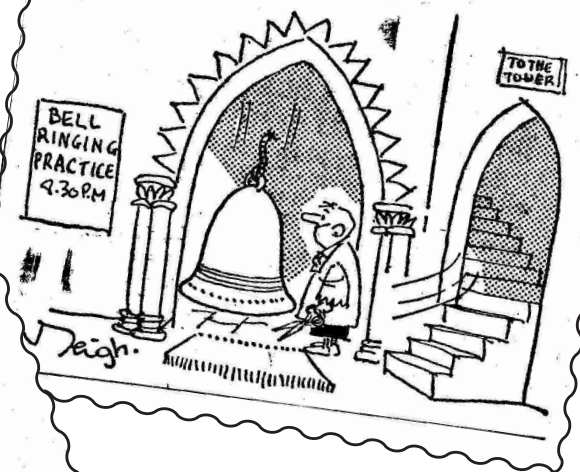
First we need an organising committee...with the initial task, once the basic decisions have been made on dates, charity and paperwork, to go out and sign up all the groups to participate. Later, we'll look at the 'stage management' aspects but I promise meetings will be kept to a minimum.

Does the idea excite you? Would you like to be involved? I'm anticipating a team of about 10 now, with the need for more volunteers nearer the time. Please speak to me, phone or email if you're joining me.....and let me know the best days/times for you for the initial meeting. Thanks in excited anticipation!

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 / 07982 439 828

lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com





If your hair is difficult to manage



don't force it to do anything it doesn't want to do



and eventually it will become easier to control



SPENCE until it develops a natural style of its own.

Mothers' Union News



It is with great regret and sadness we have had to say “goodbye” to two of our members in the last month. Rachel Arnatt had been a member of our branch for several years. Sadly for some time she had been unable to get to our meetings due to ill health but she was always in our thoughts and prayers.

Marjorie Pipkin was a life-long member and only a few months ago we discussed with her how long ago it was that she joined the Mothers' Union. She reckoned it was well over seventy years! She took a lively interest in our meetings and everything we did as a branch.

She was much loved and we miss her. At her funeral her grandson read a lovely poem which we would like to include here as a tribute to her.

The June meeting was well attended despite some people being away on holiday. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Daniel, June Smith's mother, who had travelled from St Vincent Island in the Caribbean for a family funeral. It was a pleasure to welcome a Mothers' Union member from the other side of the Atlantic and hear news of their movement.

Our July meeting on 18th of the month will be our summer tea party. We always manage to put together a lovely selection of bring-and-share goodies and make it a kind of “end-of-term” social occasion.

We are attempting something rather different for our September meeting, namely a theme based on the popular radio programme “Desert Island Discs”. Each member is invited to bring one favourite piece of music and one favourite book to share. We can only play CDs though so old 78 rpm records won't do!

Coming up on Friday, 7th October is another of our popular Wine, Cheese and Poetry evenings. This,

of course, is open to everyone. When it was first suggested that we tried a poetry evening there was some doubt that such an event would be popular in Cowley. Such doubt was unfounded. If you are a regular you will know what a fun evening is in store. If you have not yet tried it, do come along and find out. Tickets are £4 if you bring a poem with you, £5 if you simply come to be entertained. Supper and wine are all included. The profit will go to one of the Mothers' Union causes to support vulnerable families world-wide.

Talking of support for vulnerable families we have been asked to publish the following plea in our church magazine on behalf of Mothers Union in the diocese. Do please support this project if you can:

“Thanks to Everyone Who Helped.

Many thanks to everyone who responded with offers of sewing-machines – I have had lots and lots! As you will know if you have already been in touch and I have replied to you, I now know of an organisation which takes all sorts of electrical and manual machines (sewing machines, drills, garden machinery, small tools, etc, etc) which they put into good order and then send to specific projects all over the world,, but mainly on the African continent. If you are able to publicise this in a parish magazine or village journal, that would be good. Send your offers by e-mail if at all possible please giving your name, full street address including the postcode, telephone number, and brief details of what you need to be collected. If you don't have access to email, then please write to me giving all the above details. I am really grateful for all the good offers – THANKYOU!

Diana Hasting, The Middle House, 11 High Street, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4ER tel:

01235 834740 and e-mail diamar@onetel.com”

*Miss me, but let me go
When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little – but not too long,
And not with your head bowed low,
Remember the love that we once shared;
Miss me – but let me go.
For this is a journey we all must take,
And each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick of heart,
Go to the friends we know;
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,
Miss me – but let me go.
There may be times you miss me.
I sort of hope you do,
But smile when you think of me,
For I'll be waiting for you.
Now there's many things for you to do,
And lots of ways to grow,
So get busy, be happy, and live your life,
Miss me, but let me go.*

THOUGHTS OF A 90 YEAR OLD

31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come...
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift

THE END

CHRONICLE ORDERS FOR 2011 – 2012

Please see over the page your form for the next ten issues of the Chronicle. If you would like to reorder please hand in your slip to May Morgan or Norah Shallow by 29 August with £3.50.

New subscribers can obtain their slips from the two churches.

Lesley in New Zealand - 10 February – 24 March 2011

Communication

6 weeks is a long time to be away but of course it is so easy to keep in touch by email, which I did regularly from internet cafes, homes, B&Bs, hotels & airports! I logged into work mailbox too, once a week, so I didn't come home to 300+! I sent 84 postcards, many of which took 6 weeks to arrive because I used some gorgeous pictorial stamps which I've discovered were not NZ mail, so the cards' route to UK was somewhat devious!

Highlights

The prime reason for the trip: the lakeside wedding of Bizzy (daughter of squash club friends) and Quinn, a Kiwi, with hen evening before and further festivity Afterwards (Wanaka and Hawea)

Flight over and cruise on Milford Sound

River jet boating (Wanaka)

4WD off road day, over a mountain ridge, taking in a sheep station & winery (Alex)

Helicopter whale spotting (Kaikoura)

National Party quiz night, chaired by the Speaker of NZ Parliament (Blenheim)

The 3 day Queen Charlotte Track 'tramp' (out of Picton)

Wineries

Wonderful hospitality from folk I have never met, on behalf of their &/or my parents (Wellington, Mt Pirongia)

Rigid inflatable boat trip off the Coromandel coast

Rotorua's geysers & mud pools

Meeting the 96 year old Winchmore Hill Scouting colleague of my father on the very day Dad would have been 100 (Mt Pirongia)

Meeting bride & groom Bizzy & Quinn in Auckland for my final NZ evening

And arriving home to sunshine, daffodils, blossom & trees in leaf!

Lowlights

The earthquake, of course - it was an overwhelming media focus but did indicate what a close community NZ is - everywhere I stayed, folk had friends or family directly affected and most knew someone who had died, either personally or just at one remove. I felt the quake sitting on a settee in Wanaka, some 300 miles away - thought it must be one of those massage chairs.....or the cat was underneath....then the news came on the TV.



CHRONICLE ORDER

Please reserve _____ copies of Chronicle for me each month, from September

2011 – July 2012 @ £3.50 per subscription.

I enclose £ _____ cash/cheque made payable to Parish of Cowley.

Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Phone: _____ I would like (name) _____

to collect my Chronicle

I was due to stay right in the CBD for 2 nights the following week and travel by train from there up the coast to Blenheim: obviously that was all cancelled so I drove all the way instead, and stayed in Oxford!

Short term loss of my suitcase, delivered to Wanaka on the Thursday, after my Monday arrival, mislaid, along with 10 others, somewhere between Singapore, Melbourne and Christchurch - only had to buy a pair of knickers and of shoes, having travelled in my walking boots! Happily was able to borrow other things from English friends (learning curve : always have spares in hand luggage)

Not being able to see Mount Cook because of low cloud or the night sky from the nearby Mt John observatory

Being unable to get my brain/tongue around Maori place names

Not being able to fit in any dance or theatre performances

Receiving a speeding fine, notice of which arrived here on 5 May.....but no points on licence!

Impressions:

Amazing hospitality, friendliness & generosity efficiency of the I-site staff (tourist information)

Cleanliness and lack of litter

Empty roads

Stylish clothes - lots of merino wool & possum - but expensive and I didn't have any room in my suitcase!

Sheep, cattle & vineyards!

Fantastic scenery – ranges of mountains everywhere and all making Ben Nevis insignificant!

Colour of lakes, rivers & the ocean

Air quality

Excellent, interactive museums - learning about whaling, gold mining, sheep, wineries, Maori migration & culture

I have 500+ photos and must now (new learning curve) discover how to edit and display them on screen!

I'll enjoy sharing them with you some time.

How should we GIVE in 2011

We are not Samaritans but people of Cowley, and though we don't see many people left destitute and beaten on our roadsides, there are overwhelming deserving causes locally, nationally and internationally. This year the Annual Parish Congregation Meeting voted that all the voluntary giving, including the money returned in Gift Aid, donated to the parish in 2010, 5% should be given to charities this year. This means that we have £3,216.00 to donate in 2011.

We need your input to decide on where this money will go.

Please give your ideas to me with all the relevant information and please volunteer yourself if you wish to be part of the group making the decisions. There will be a meeting of this group on Wednesday 14th September to allocate this money. Joan Coleman - Parish Treasurer. 95, Crescent Road OX4 2NY

Tel 770865 e-mail: ojcoleman@btinternet.com

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 2.30 pm	Morning Prayer – St James Parish Mothers' Union – St James (3rd Mon)
Tuesday	8.15 am 10.00 am 12.00 pm 12.30 pm 2.30 pm	Morning Prayer – St James Seashells Toddler Group : St James Eucharist – St James Tuesday Lunch Club – St James Friends of St Francis – St Francis (2nd & 4th Tues)
Wednesday	8.15 am 9.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James Morning Prayer – St Francis
Thursday	8.15 am 7.30 pm	Morning Prayer – St James Healing Service (1st Thurs) St James/St Francis (alternate months)
Friday	8.15 am 5.30 pm	Morning Prayer – St James Evening Prayer – St James

Home Groups

Leader

Una Dean

Connie Uren:

Friends of St Francis:
(John Streeve/Molly Oliver)

Tony Beetham

Patrick Gilday:

Rosanne Butler

Mark Oxbrow

Time / Venue

Alternate Monday mornings at 10:15am in
Una's home

Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm
in St James Church Centre Lounge

Tuesday alternate afternoons at 2:30pm in
St Francis Church

Alternate Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in
St James Church Centre Lounge

Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm
in St Francis Church upper room

Alternate Thursday mornings at 10:30am
in St James Church Centre Lounge

Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in
Mark's home

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

Thursday 12.45 pm to 4.30 pm

Friday 9.00 am to 1.15 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.

Associate Priest

Revd Richard Chand

richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Non-Stipendiary Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

13 Annesley Road

Oxford, OX4 4JH

Tel: 01865 461953

markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Amanda Bloor

Diocesan Church House

North Hinksey

Oxford OX2 0NB

Tel: 01865 208 221

parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602

Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens:

Margaret Martin Tel: 718532

John Shreeve

Hall Bookings

Pat Sansom Tel: 778516