

# Are You Contagious?

Over the next month you might go for the jab to keep from getting the flu. When you're inoculated, a weakened form of the flu virus is injected into your bloodstream allowing you to build up immunity to the disease. This discovery revolutionised preventative medicine. Fifty years ago many children died because of polio; today it is rare.

In the UK, thousands of people have been inoculated against church and God. They have built up immunity to Christianity and now they are resistant to faith.

Did you know that inoculations are not totally effective? Sometimes the virus that causes the disease mutates. It changes, so that your body is immune to the old form of the disease, but not the new strain. That's not so good if you're fighting against influenza, but its great news for Christians. It means that we can become contagious. Our church can become a centre that helps to grow contagious Christians. Our church services, our home groups, and our lives can become infectious so that faith can flourish.

Every area of our church needs to become a centre that is infectious. When my brother and his wife visited this summer, we talked about church in England and in Calgary. A man at their church is affectionately known as "two-a-day Ray." Ray is a contagious Christian. Every day he makes it a point to speak to two people about his love of God and the difference it has made in his life, and many of those people come back to church. Not everyone has Ray's particular gift, but each one of us is called to have a contagious faith.

There are so many opportunities. Invite someone to coffee or tea in your home; build a friendship. Hospitality and a genuine interest in

people's lives are powerful influences. Friendship and love change people's lives, and make them opens them up to be infected with God's love.

How can you become infectious? Invite someone to enjoy great music and a glass of champagne at the Cowley Proms (happening Saturday 24 September, buy you tickets from Rosanne Butler, and encourage someone else to come. Better yet, invite your friend and then buy them a ticket). Don't forget to invite someone (or two or three) to the "Welcome Back" church services at St Francis and St James Churches on Sunday 25 September.

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*when you share – your hands are empty so that you are free to receive from others and from God.*

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Or make plans to invite someone to the Thanksgiving Harvest service which will be followed by a harvest luncheon (16 October; be sure to get tickets for the luncheon that follows). How about inviting someone to the St Francis Day Service and lunch (2 October;)? Home groups are designed to be supportive, caring places in which you can invite someone who doesn't come to church to sample a bit of what we are about. So, take a neighbour or friend or the local baker to your home group. Or better still, begin your own home group and invite people you know. If you don't know how, or feel you are not equipped to be a home group leader, just ask. Training is available and it's easier than you think.

When you come to church on a Sunday or a Tuesday, come with a

**Continued overleaf**

# Chronicle

Cowley Team Ministry

September 2011

# Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Welcome back and well done if you got your orders into May Morgan on time to receive your own personal copy of The Chronicle. If you know of anyone who has said, "Oh dear, I meant to order mine and forgot" do tell them it is not too late to get their October issue if they do something about it this month.

The Parish felt a bit like Sleeping Beauty during August didn't it? All very still and quiet (Yes, I know St Francis held their coffee morning, good for them, but most things kind-of closed down). But like Sleeping Beauty the breath of the Parish was still there and now, suddenly, we are wide awake and ready for lots of action.

Meetings have all started up again, Harvest Festival is coming up, Seashells and Lunch Club are up and running this week and so much more. The new initiative, namely the Christmas Tree Festival, is only a couple of months away and before that comes the Cowley Proms, at the end of September.

We hope you approve of our new monthly item "How good is your local knowledge?" I must admit that when our talented photographer, Les Hemsworth, showed me some of the pictures he

has lined up for the coming months he had me scratching my head. We decided not to put the solution in the same issue as the picture but leave it till the following month. In that way you have got a month to hunt for it. If you have children or grandchildren to help you I think they might find it fun to do and they will also learn more about their local area too. If you have a favourite hidden gem to suggest please whisper it in your Editor's ear.

Over the summer break the main hall in the Church Centre has had a fresh coat of paint and it looks marvellous. Time and again people (not necessarily church-goers) tell us how lucky we are to have such a great amenity. It is hard not to be smug when we say, "Yes, aren't we?" Lets hope that on Back-to-Church Sunday even more local folk will walk through the Centre doors for after-church-coffee and notice how bright and beautiful it is. By the way, have you invited one of your friends or neighbours to join you on Sunday, 11th September for the morning service? Come on, give it a try!

It's nice to be back with you all and we hope your September issue will offer you interesting reading.

God bless

**Rosanne**

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## Continued from page 1

sense of anticipation. Come remembering that you are called to a family celebration. Come knowing that if "u – r" not in church it's just "ch\_\_ch." You are needed and you have received a special invitation to share in God's great bring-and-share celebration. What are you bringing to share? It could be through prayers, or worship, or encouraging someone, or a word you share with others. Each of us can bring something to share. And when you share – your hands are empty so that you are free to receive from others and from God.

God is calling you and me to be incurable, contagious, infectious, life-long followers of Jesus, who welcome others into God's family.

**Howard**

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

*George Burns*

# DEVELOPMENT IN COWLEY

What a lot of development is taking place in Cowley at the present time:

**Between Towns Road:** A new action group has been formed to serve the residents of Middle Cowley. The new group was put together following concerns raised by residents in St. Luke's Road about a proposed development of 150 student bedsits and a new Conservative Club in Between Towns Road. The application has now been withdrawn, but it has prompted residents to get together to form Middle Cowley Residents Action Group (MCRAAG). It is planned for the group to tackle issues affecting the quality of life in the area, such as new developments, parking, traffic and noise. The group is aimed at people living in the area bound by Garsington Road, Between Towns Road, Barns Road and Oxford Business Park South. To join the group, raise an issue or find out more about what is planned, email [mcrag11@gmail.com](mailto:mcrag11@gmail.com), or go along to its meeting on Tuesday, 6th September 2011, at 8 pm in the Temple Cowley United Reformed Church.

**John Allen Centre:** There is a possibility that Sainsbury's will return to Cowley. In addition, further plans have been submitted including three new cafes, four starter homes and a landscaped park. All this is subject to planning permission. Press reports indicate that B&Q is looking for an alternative site somewhere in the city.

**Old Post Office, Cowley Centre:** What are the plans for this site?

**Site of old Community Centre:** What are the plans for this site?

**Hollow Way:** It has been agreed that flats can be built on the old Building Equipment Hire shop by the traffic lights at the junction of Hollow Way and Horspath Road.

If you wish to raise any issues on these developments, contact the Oxford City Council or discuss with your City Councillor.

## Take a Walk through the Bible

This year as we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, we invite you to learn more than you ever imagined, while having a whole lot of fun, at the **Walk Through the Bible New Testament Live Event**. It's a six-hour live event at which participants take an active part journeying through the New Testament.

"I've never understood the Bible like this before!" That's what many people said after the Walk Through the Old Testament seminar we sponsored last year. This year's Walk will help you discover that the New Testament is interesting, imaginative, exciting and filled with inspired words of life.

This dynamic learning experience will give you the big picture of the New Testament in just a few

short hours. The interactive approach connects with your head, heart and hands, helping you remember much more than you would by simply reading or listening to a teacher.

By the end of the *Walk Through the New Testament*, you will understand it in a whole new way, and passages that were once puzzling will suddenly become clear. As a result, your devotional life may be more meaningful, and your prayer life more powerful.

When does all this happen? It's during Bible Sunday Weekend. The Walk Through the Bible seminar is at St James Church Centre Saturday morning, 22 October beginning at 9:30. Bible Sunday is the 23 October at St James and St Francis churches.

# Gardening

Have you enjoyed your summer of sun, rain and watering? It has been rather varied - just so that we do not get bored. The magazines now tell us that autumn is upon us and that we should get ready for the great close-down. But gardens around are still colourful and daisies are all around. Even my grass patch has clumps of daisies. Many of the larger flowers for autumn are from the daisy family, marguerites, echinacea, sunflowers, heleniums etc. These flowers are easy for the insects to land on and sup from. Just look around and see the air filled with life above these open flowers.

More colour comes from phlox, dahlias, geraniums (pelargoniums), fuchsias, with moving backgrounds of flowering grasses. Now is the time to take cuttings of the geraniums and fuchsias. Last winter killed off quite a few hardy plants, so be prepared with some small plants. Once they have rooted, just keep the fuchsias slightly protected and keep the geraniums in a greenhouse or on a windowsill. There are lots of other plants which can have cuttings taken from them. I shall take some from my ceanothus, verbena bonariensis, philadelphus (mock orange), penstemons, lavender and rosemary. That should keep me out of mischief for a while!

It is mid-August and I am still waiting for ripe tomatoes from my outdoor tomatoes, but it is time to remove some of the lower leaves now that the fruit trusses have set. I do try to water regularly so that the fruit do not split – but you know how it is..... I have pinched out the top flowers leaving just 3 or 4 trusses so that the energy of each plant concentrates just on the fruits which may ripen rather than waste energy on hopeless trusses.

It is not too late (probably) to sow lettuce and oriental leaves for late-summer salads, and also spring cabbage for that time in spring when fresh veg. is so welcome. Also pot up some mint roots for use in the winter, and put other herbs, like parsley in pots ready to put in protected areas later on.

Now the magazines and catalogues are beginning to tempt us with bulbs and plants for spring. I shall read well and mentally fill my garden to overflowing as usual. Hopefully I shall also get some real bulbs for the house and the garden, and some fresh colour in the beds.

Enjoy the painting with plants and bulbs.

**Diana Pope**

## **Doris Holton**

Thank you to the congregation of St James for all the friendship given to my mother, Doris Holton. St James helped Mum in so many ways, both spiritually and physically. Thanks too, to Mr Tidy, who played so sensitively, and to all the ladies for their hard work on the reception afterwards.

Peter and Janet Holton

## COWLEY PROMS

The Cowley version of The Last Night of the Proms is returning for the third time on Saturday, 24th September. The programme this year will feature music from the stage and screen in the first half, including some of the film music from the Harry Potter movies. You see, we are right up to date!

The music will be provided by The Jubilee Brass Band and some splendid organ pieces played by Brian Tidy. We have an instrumental group from the Oxfordshire Youth Players also.

The singing will be led by the voices of a children's choir and the glorious voice of Morag Crowther. Naturally the second half of the concert will be predominantly traditional favourites such as "Rule Britannia" and "Jerusalem".

Two years ago the concert was a sell-out. In order to keep the cost within reason we have pegged the price of tickets to £18 (the same as 2009) which includes a delicious pre-concert supper, a programme with all the words, an interval treat and a little flag to wave. Do come and join in the fun.

# 'LET'S LIGHT UP CHRISTMAS'

## *Cowley festival of Christmas trees 2011*

9-11 December 2011 in St James Church

Friday, 9 December: 11.00-7.30

Saturday, 10 December: 10.00-6.00

Sunday, 11 December: 2.00-5.00

concluding with a Festival Carol service at 5.30

### **Proceeds to be shared between Oxford Children's Hospital and Save the Children**

The organising core group - Lesley Williams, Margaret Weller, Betty Mitchell, Rosanne Butler, Chris Woodman, Joan Coleman – is very excited about this new community venture, with a vision of bringing hundreds of Cowley folk into our Parish church for a beautiful experience.

### **What we are doing now :**

- inviting the local schools, churches, organisations, businesses to sign up to provide a decorated tree for the festival
- inviting local choirs and music groups to perform during the weekend
- applying for a grant to cover the costs
- designing a poster and flyer to advertise the event
- signing up more of YOU to help on one of the task groups which need to begin work in October :

*Publicity      Hospitality      Programme      Stage  
Management*

There are volunteer lists to sign in both churches – please join the vision!

The next planning meeting is at 9.30 am on 5 October, in the Ranklin Room; all ideas are welcomed

### **Lesley Williams**

Tel: 01865 779 562/07982 439 828

Email: lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com

Whilst camping recently we were reminded of a popular 'lively' St. James hymn that we felt compelled to alter (altar?!!) and sing along to occasionally:

**We are camping, camping,  
Oh oh we are camping,  
We are camping in the garden of  
God.**

Perhaps you'd like to make up your own verses too!!

*Anon.*

## KITCHEN PRAYER

Lots of pots and pans and things,  
since I've not time to be  
a saint by doing lovely things,  
Or watching late with thee,  
or dreaming in the dawn light,  
or storming heaven's gates,  
make me a saint by getting meals  
and washing up the plates.

Although I must have Martha's  
hands, I have a Mary mind,  
and when I black the boots and  
shoes thy sandals, Lord, I find  
I think of how they trod the earth,  
each time I scrub the floor;  
accept this meditation, Lord,  
I haven't time for more

## AUTUMN

September, September,

Ah, I remember

The summer days of sunshine gold

The mountain ash with orange berries

Means the year is growing old.

Leaves turn from green to red, brown and  
gold

Soon 'twill be mists, the frosts, the snow

Enjoy the trees with their brown, gold and  
red

It's nature's way of putting the world to  
bed.

"We plough the fields and scatter

The good seed on the land"

We will sing around the world

As we praise God's mighty hand

A lovely hymn to our Maker's praise

Think not of winter with its cruel ways

But enjoy the lovely autumn days.

**Gwen Fancutt**

# The Origins of Cowley

## Part Fourteen : The New Landlords

As we have seen in former articles the main landlords of Cowley right through the Middle Ages from the Conquest until the mid-sixteenth century were The Crown, Osney Abbey and the Knights Templar, replaced by the Knights Hospitallers. Soon things were about to get very complicated so much so that I propose to simplify matters somewhat in an attempt to make this month's episode more readable. Everything which I have for you, though, will be as historically correct as the old chronicles have recorded.

It is well known that King Henry VIII spent many frustrating years attempting to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, in order to marry Anne Boleyn. The Pope, who had given dispensation for him to marry his sister-in-law, Catherine, in the first place, endlessly decreed that the Church would not allow the divorce. In the end Henry broke with Rome, declared himself head of The Church of England and then did, more or less, as he liked. I know that is all a bit simplistic but we must press on!

Henry looked around at "his" Church and realised that the religious establishments – monasteries, abbeys, convents and priories had become incredibly rich and he, being a very lavish spender, decided to lay his hands on their treasures, cash and lands. Making the point that their holy vows, which included poverty, were being flouted (and he did have a good argument) set about dissolving the monasteries lock, stock and (lots of) barrels. This process included Osney Abbey which had held the lands in Cowley since the eleventh century. Henry gave all the assets of Osney to his newly acquired college in the middle of Oxford. His cardinal and chief ecclesiastical advisor, Wolsey had begun to establish a big new college on the site of St Frideswide's Priory and had named it Cardinal College. As a result of the divorce struggle Wolsey, who, let's face it, had grown far too big for his expensive boots, was deprived of his office in 1529 and eventually arrested for treason. Henry took over the establishment of the college which we now know as Christ Church College and gave them Osney's lands. Hence Cowley had a new and powerful landlord.

The manor and rectory seem to have formed one estate later known as the rectory manor which was all eventually given to Christ Church in 1542. Just before this the Abbot of Osney had made a long lease of the estate to Henry Royce who had to wait until the current lease holders John Parsons and John Pulker, his wife and son had died. Henry Royce sold his lease to William Napier.

In 1597 the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church brought in an action in Chancery which enabled them to raise the rents from the leaseholders. It was agreed that the land was worth £72 but the rent of £12.3s a year, also agreed remained, unchanged until 1874. To make the income more profitable for the college the leases were shortened and heavy fines were imposed for delays in paying them. Christ Church remained landlords here until after 1931.

Temple Cowley having been bequeathed to the Templars in 1139 remained in their ownership until they were abolished. The Hospitallers took over. However a smaller estate was leased out to a family from Buckinghamshire who were tenants during the late twelfth and most of the thirteenth centuries. Their name was Chissebeche. Osbert de Cowley was probably a sub-tenant in the twelfth century and after much complicated "wheeling and dealing" his grand-daughter Alice claimed a large area, about 150 acres from the Chissebeches.

Because the King controlled our landlords, Christ Church, the whole of Cowley was deemed to be ultimately to be in royal hands, so when Henry's daughter, Elizabeth I came to the throne she rented all of Church Cowley and Temple Cowley to Sir Francis Knollys in 1564. He, and subsequently his son Sir William, held all manorial rights and the area was managed by them until 1627.

You see how complicated it all was? And I have given you the simplified version!

One other interesting point to note is that as a result of Christ Church's hold on Cowley they provided us with our curates and clergy right up until the twentieth century. This resulted in the priests coming up to take services in the parish church from the college, not residing in the parish.

# OXFORD HISTORY CENTRE

The following are now in one building at St Luke's Church, Temple Road, Cowley:

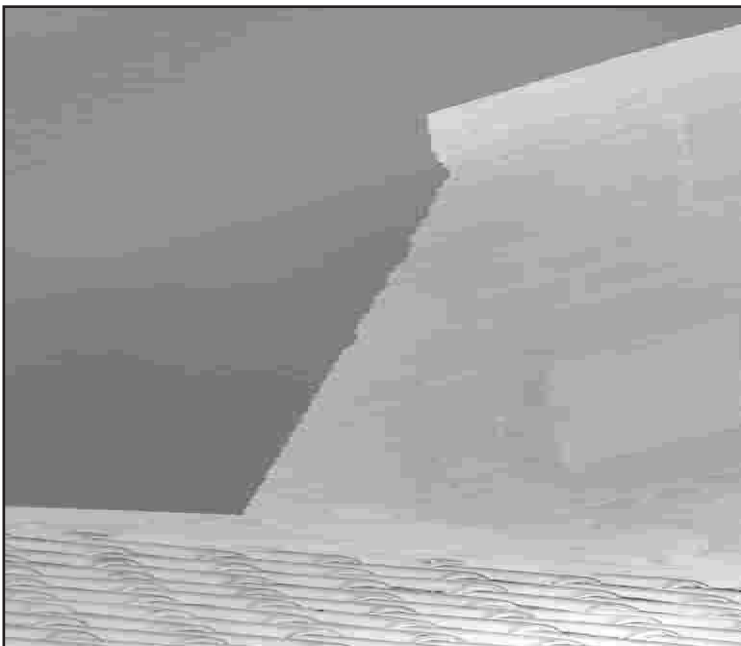
- Oxfordshire Records Office
- Oxfordshire Studies, and
- Oxfordshire Health Archives

If you would like a Reader's ticket to allow you to consult original documents, you can obtain a CARN ticket – you need to take 2 passport-sized photographs, and proof of your address and signature (e.g. driving licence, or a utility bill and credit card)

There is a small café where you can purchase hot drinks and snacks, as well as a selection of books and CDs. You are welcome to bring and eat your own food in the café area when you use the Centre.

Call at the Centre and see what they have to offer – it is a very interesting place to visit.

**A little girl sat listening to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. She alternately touched her own cheek. Finally she spoke up "Grandpa did God make you?" "Yes sweetheart God made me a long time ago" "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes indeed honey, God made you just a little while ago" Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"**



# MEMORIES OF THE CAR INDUSTRY

David Buckle, who was a Trade Union Official at Cowley, Oxford for 38 years, has written a book giving his views of "Turbulent Times in the Car Industry." The book costs £4.99 plus postage. For a copy call David Buckle on 01235 529949 or write to 1 Stonhouse Crescent, Radley, OX14 3AG

## Turbulent Times in the Car Industry

Memories of a Trade Union Official  
at Cowley, Oxford



By David Buckle

## HOW IS YOUR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE?

Each month we are going to challenge our readers to identify a Cowley landmark. Our roving photographer, Les Hemsworth, will choose a local view to get you thinking. Answer next month.

# Rosanne Interviews **Vernon Needham**

Derbyshire – how many great things can you think of that come from this county? Well, there is sparkling Buxton water, delicious Bakewell tarts, fine bluejohn spar for jewellery and, of course, the magnificent Rolls-Royce engine. And then there is Vernon! It is impossible to miss his strong Derbyshire accent the moment you get into conversation with him so it is no surprise to learn that he was born and bred in the heart of the beautiful Peak District – in the spa town of Buxton. His life journey, which brought him eventually to Cowley, is full of interest.

His mother was the daughter of a stonemason, a good job to have in the heart of the Derbyshire hills. Vernon remembers his grandfather with affection due, I believe, to the gentle attention he received from him as a little boy. He was also very close to his father, an engine driver, but describes his relationship with his mother as difficult. He told me that, as her first child, he received unstinting attention during his early years. However, when he was three years old a new baby arrived and then another, and another and he found himself pushed into the background. He had three brothers and one sister and was expected to be the responsible one.

At five he started school in the local primary and found himself enjoying his lessons though he described himself as an under-achiever. As his brothers and sister reached school age he was expected to look out for them – quite a responsibility. He only played truant once (aged eight). Coincidentally the attendance officer, who called to report the incident to his dad, eventually

married one of his aunties, quite a joke he thought.

It was whilst he was at secondary modern school that the Second World War started and many a time lessons were interrupted by troop movements through the town. The teachers would take their pupils out to line the pavements and wave flags as they cheered the lorries full of soldiers or airmen passing by. Gas-mask checks were carried out regularly and air-raid shelter “practice” remains a vivid memory for Vernon including the teacher-led sing-songs as they sat in the dark, damp shelters.

Of course in those war days education was rather haphazard as many of the competent teachers were called into war service and their places filled with supply staff. Vernon’s worst subject was maths but he became an excellent hand-writer, was good at spelling and so English was his favourite. When he left school with no qualifications his mother, in her disappointment, flew into a rage and it needed his dad to come to his rescue. It was decided that he should join the firm of a local builder as an apprentice carpenter. After a while the boss of the firm suggested that he should complete his apprenticeship on the maintenance staff of Buxton Hospital which he did. At the end of seven years, at twenty-one, he was a qualified carpenter and joiner.

Throughout his teenage years he had always been good at all kinds of sport though football was, and has always been, his first love. He also dreamed of becoming a doctor, a career way beyond him. He did, however, join the St John’s Ambulance Service. No sooner had he completed his

apprenticeship when he was called up for National Service. He joined the RAF. He was stationed at Cardington and was there made a nursing assistant. This created a complete sea-change for him as he qualified as a medical orderly.

During his time in national Service his mother became seriously ill and he was given compassionate leave to be near her. It was whilst back in Derbyshire that he joined the Peak District mountain rescue team as their medical officer. Their expertise was called upon in many parts of the British Isles from Snowdonia right up to Scotland and frequently in the Yorkshire Dales. Vernon has many hair-raising tales to tell of his experiences with the team but has never forgotten the irresponsible way that casual walkers will climb the fells, often accompanied by small children, with inappropriate footwear and clothing and no equipment to find their way, if must, or clouds close in.

There followed postings to several RAF hospitals where his medical training led to promotion. He finally worked at the Air Signals School in Blackpool which had married quarters attached and he was dealing with the medical needs of the airmen and their families. At the end of his tour of duty the Principal of the School suggested that he should apply for a post in a civilian hospital. He was eventually offered one at Barnet General hospital in Surrey where he trained to be a State Registered Nurse. Until then he had never had a girl-friend but on his first day at the training school he found himself surrounded by very pretty, young trainee nurses and lots of “dates” followed. He told the story of how he and one of these young ladies were giving



Deadline for the October Chronicle is the 23 September, and the deadline for the November Chronicle is the 28th October.

an elderly gentleman a bed-bath one hot summer afternoon. Vernon asked his colleague if she would like to go for a walk when they went off duty. She demurred saying she had lots to do. The old patient perked up saying, "He's only asking you to go for a walk, young lady, why don't you go, you'll enjoy it". So she agreed and that was Vernon's first "date" with his future wife. What an unlikely Cupid! A close friendship developed that summer with games of tennis, visits to London theatres and finally a wedding.

Catherine's father was a difficult man but Vernon had to pluck up courage to ask permission to marry her as she was not yet twenty-one. A very violent scene ensued (for no apparent reason) but once calm was restored permission was granted. The young couple set up home in a little flat. Vernon was nursing in St Albans which necessitated a long cycle ride at all hours of the day and night before and after his shifts.

Their baby son Geoffrey was born, and determined that he should have his own little bedroom, they took out a mortgage on a small house. Soon blue-eyed, blonde baby Janet was born. Their family was completed some years later with another son, Alan. It was soon after that, in 1965, that Vernon, now fully qualified, and Catherine moved with their young family to Littlemore where they both nursed at the hospital there.

She became the sister of a psychiatric ward which was her specialism. Through their children the couple became involved in the Guiding and Scouting movement in our area.

However, all was not going well with their marriage and after twenty-seven years together they agreed to separate. Vernon was shattered and to this day cannot explain how it all went wrong since there was no other person involved. The unusual thing is that after their divorce he and Catherine remained friends and even, for several years, took their three grandchildren on holiday to France together.

Even after studying for, and passing, his GCSE Maths and English certificates at the Oxford College of Further Education, Vernon, by then living in his own home in Boswell Road, Cowley, became depressed. He felt that life should have more to offer. He read about Alpha courses in The Oxford Mail and discovered that there was one soon to begin in Cowley. He filled in a form, pushed it through Father Stephen's letter-box and prayed. Soon after, a young man walked up his front path and said, "Hello, I'm Vernon". Vernon replied, "Oh, so am I!". There followed a good laugh and a long conversation with our lovely curate at the time, Vernon Orr. Of course, Vernon Needham joined the Alpha course and found a new relationship with God. He named Cyril Room and Una Dean as fellow-members on his course whom he still counts as friends. In fact he has enormous praise for the warmth and friendship he has experienced within the church family and declares that he would not have got through several recent serious bouts of ill-health without their love and prayers.

Now enjoying life almost to the full he takes regular daily strolls through the centre of our beautiful City and enjoys a

coffee so frequently at Marks and Spencer that he counts the young staff there amongst his friends.

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

Quiet, jealous, fervently involved in football, very close to my father.

### **Have you any unforgettable childhood memories?**

I loved my grandfather. He was one of eight children. I used to sit and talk with him for hours. He was a master mason. He would take me round to his yard. He carried his mason's tools in a bucket and he got a little bucket with small tools in it for me. I was scared of church but grandfather was devout C of E. He was asked to make a cross and put it on the highest point of the town. I remember that I saw the horse and cart taking that cross up the hill.

### **Has anyone ever had a strong influence in your life?**

An uncle, my mother's brother. I used to visit him and liked watching him making toys of wood and lovely mosaics from silver foil.

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

No, I can't say that it has, but I still have a strong impression of seeing Billy Graham at Wembley when I was in the RAF.

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

I despair about how selfish society is these days but I am optimistic with how most children will develop in their lives.

**Continued overleaf**

**If you could change something in a big way what would it be?**

Personally I'd change from being a pessimist to a hale-fellow-well-met character.

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

The married part of my life – we used to get on so well together. The single happiest part was when we had a special holiday in Tenerife.

**How do you like to spend your spare time?**

Walking around Oxford, looking upwards and enjoying the things most people don't see.

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

I am going to throw myself at the Lord's mercy as I would like to manage one last holiday. I want to go somewhere warm when the weather is cold here. I want to be pain free and able to walk.

Rosanne Butler: I pray that Vernon gets his wish, don't you?

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## REGARDS

Susy Pavelin sends her regards to us at St James. She is working on the gardening team at a Scottish NT castle near Aberdeen. Last Winter was a bit difficult for her but she is settled and happy.

Una Dean

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# Mothers' Union News



After a delightful "end-of-term" tea party the branch took its summer break. However, in the middle of August, the day after Mary Sumner, our Founder's Day the Area Summer Meeting was held at Kidlington. Six members from Cowley attended and we all agreed that it was a very good evening. A splendid buffet supper was followed by a short act of worship in St Mary's Church. We were then treated to an entertaining and moving talk by Mrs Wendy Pritchard, our Bishop's wife. The main theme of her talk was encouraging us to pause, look and listen to the beauties of God's creation and thus draw nearer to Him. She illustrated the theme with stunning photographs she had taken throughout the year in her own beautiful North Oxford garden.

The forthcoming September meeting on 19th, in

the Church Centre, is on the subject of members' favourite books and music. We are calling it "Desert Island Discs". Visitors are always welcome to our meetings which begin at 2.30 pm and end when we have finished chatting over our cuppa and biscuits.

The other date for the diary is our Wine, Cheese and Poetry evening on Friday, 7th October. We really want this to be a success and we are sending all profits from the evening to support Mothers' Union members in Africa with their transport schemes. Many of these ladies travel long distances along difficult roads in their work to help and encourage families in remote areas. Most need off-road vehicles though some even cycle! Keeping them mobile is a project we are trying to support.

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**A lad was watching his Father, the priest, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me of course". "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"**

# RECIPES

Helen Beetham passed this recipe on to me and I thought it was interesting enough to pass on to our readers:

## Orange glazed chicken with coriander

- 4 skinless chicken joints
- 2 heaped teaspoons coriander seeds
- 4 tablespoons coarse cut orange marmalade
- 2 cloves crushed garlic
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- Salt and Pepper

Crush the coriander seeds finely and mix with the marmalade, garlic and lemon juice

Slash the chicken with several cuts

Spread the marmalade over the chicken

Season and place in ovenproof dish

Bake in moderate oven for 40-45 minutes



Now is a good time to go blackberrying so we are including a couple of delicious ways to use them:

## Blackberry Fool

- 1 lb blackberries
- 2 fl ozs water
- 4 ozs sugar
- 10 fl ozs double cream

Put the blackberries, water and sugar in medium-sized saucepan

Cover the pan and stew the fruit over a gentle heat for about 30 minutes until it is soft and pulpy

Rub the fruit through a strainer using the back of a wooden spoon

Allow the fruit pulp to cool

Whisk the cream until it begins to thicken and stands in soft peaks

Fold the fruit puree and cream together

Chill in the 'fridge and serve in individual dessert dishes



Now here's a drink with a very apt name. It would certainly give someone a bit of a bounce.

## Blackberry Bounce

- 2 pints of blackberry juice
- 8 ozs sugar
- 10 fl ozs brandy

Pour the juice into a big saucepan and add the sugar

Stir with wooden spoon and cook over a low heat until the sugar is fully dissolved

Bring to the boil and boil for 5 minutes stirring occasionally

Skim off any scum that might rise on the surface

Cool for about 10 minutes then add the brandy

Serve hot or cold

(Might be lovely for Christmas if you can keep it that long!)

# SAINT OF THE MONTH St Vincent de Paul

The 27th of September is celebrated as the saint day of St Vincent de Paul as it was on that date in 1660 he died, a very old man who had spent a lifetime of devotion to God and his fellow men.

He was born the last but one son of a family of six in 1576. His parents were French peasants who lived in a little town called Dax. He was educated by Franciscan monks and between his studies helped to mind the family's sheep.

His education was so successful that he became ordained at an early age. Later he moved to Paris to act as tutor in the household of a very rich couple. M. and Mme Gondi were determined that their boys would be tutored by a deeply Christian man at a time when society in Paris was passing through a dissolute age. He remained in their household for thirty two years. However, despite the fact that Vincent lived within a privileged family he was moved to tears at the utter poverty and degradation he encountered on the streets of Paris. He would walk around the poorest areas of the city picking up starving, abandoned babies and, if they were still alive, take them to holy sisters who would care for them. It was he who founded the unenclosed Order of the Sisters of Mercy who still minister to the poor in many countries today.

Vincent never forgot his peasant upbringing and loved the tough working folk of Paris. "If there are any real virtues anywhere you will find them among the poor people", he would say, "they have such patience".

Neither did he shun the rich. He gathered around him good people who had compassion for the plight of the poor. He set up a Confraternity of Charity

which involved people who would organize relief, visit hospitals, help educate children to give them a chance in life and set up homes for the destitute. He, himself, visited prisons giving hope to convicts and teaching the gospel.

Vincent also discovered that preparation for the priesthood was sadly neglected so, once he had left the household of the Gondis, he moved to a house in St Lazare where he established retreats for ordinands at first four or five times a year. In the end he was holding retreats for scores of young priests six times a year lasting a fortnight at a time. These were so successful that he then started retreats for laymen too. Rich or poor, doctors, lawyers, nobles, shopkeepers, merchants – anyone who asked was welcomed. He called them his Noah's Ark. He likened his home to the tomb of Lazarus (St Lazare) who was called back to life by Jesus.

One of his great works was to found and organize a vast "workhouse" for the destitute and beggars of Paris. He also founded a Foundling Hospital for all those unwanted babies which he continued to search for under the bridges, in doorways or under piles of rubbish. His influence reached the royal court and he formed and ran a "Council of Conscience" to exercise influence on the woefully neglected spiritual qualifications of the clergy.

He lived in his house in St Lazare until he was 84 worn out with years of labours for God. His last words before he died were "He who has begun good work will perform it until the end". He died on 27th September 1660, truly a man who had performed good work.

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## **MISSION GIVING : STOP PRESS - Meeting moved!!**

It was agreed at the Annual Parish meeting that we should give to charities this year, the equivalent of 5% of all the voluntary donations given in 2010 (including the Gift Aid reclaimed). This adds up to £3,216.00.

I have already received several ideas of how this can be distributed and would like to hear from more of you and warmly invite you to the meeting which will decide on where this money will go. Unfortunately, the meeting has had to be moved and is now on Tuesday 13th September instead of the following evening as we had clashes with the Women's Group and my Allotment Annual Meeting!!!

Please do come to St James Church Centre at 7.30pm where coffee and cake will await you!

**Joan Coleman** Parish Treasurer (Tel: 01865 770865)

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

When a young lady with a doctorate in chemical engineering feels that God is calling here to work in a part of the Middle East where she can share her faith with her professional colleagues, where does she seek help? In Cowley of course. When a young man from Georgia (not the American one – the one south of Russia!) has a vision to move to China and study theology there so that he can eventually help Chinese churches, where could he find help to raise the support he needs? In Cowley of course. When a Brazilian woman who has worked for years in Spain as a missionary desperately needs help and encouragement, when can she turn? To Cowley of course.

These are just three of the people who have come to the local charity, **Faith2Share**, for help and advice in recent months. Faith2Share has a close link with the Parish of Cowley as Mark Oxbrow is their International Director. Their office is beside the BMW works and the charity has also been supported by a grant from the parish. Part of the ministry of Faith2Share is to make connections, to help people from across the world to cooperate in Christian mission whether that means caring for refugees in Sudan, teaching in China or running a home for street kids in Peru. Charities do a great job, but they do it better if they do it together – that's what Faith2Share is there to help with.

But what about those three people seeking help. Well, the lady from Brazil was put in touch with a mission that had very good contacts in one of the Gulf States. She is now teaching at a university there and sensitively sharing what God means to her with her students and colleagues. Our Brazilian colleague in Spain now receives 'on request' mentoring by email and Facebook from Faith2Share staff and is being helped to press on with her mission work in a very difficult and demanding context. And the Georgian man? Well it just so happened that Faith2Share staff knew a Danish man who has access to funds and a great love for China. A meeting was arranged in an Oxford coffee shop and now it looks as if we have a Danish-Georgian partnership working, with a focus on China – born in Cowley!

If you like making connections you might want to consider connecting with Faith2Share, your local charity. To find out how you can help us and we can help you contact Mark Oxbrow (the International Director of Faith2Share) at [mark.oxbrow@faith2share.net](mailto:mark.oxbrow@faith2share.net) or 01865 787440.

## JUBILEE BRASS

In 1977 the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Ken Membury set up a youthful band of musicians, many of them still at school, to make joyful music together. Several of the youngsters were his own children and their friends and, taught to read music play an instrument and make joyful music they (eventually!) did. Those young children are now parents themselves and Ken is a grandfather but Jubilee Brass plays on. For the third Cowley Prom concert they will be delighting us with their music.

However it is clear that the musicians themselves are getting on in years and Ken needs a junior section to revitalise the band. He has asked The Chronicle to offer the young people of our area a chance to learn to make music with the band. The children can start to learn as early as seven years of age. They do not need any former experience of any kind. Ken, his daughter and son-in-law will provide them with a starter instrument, teach them to read music and if they "take to it" gradually integrate them into the band. Do you know any youngsters who might be keen to give it a try?

This is an incredible opportunity for a young person. The expertise they will gain could lead them into the big world of music as it has with earlier band members. Jubilee Brass is a very family orientated band. Mums and Dads are welcomed warmly into the fold. If you are interested Ken's phone number is 771347.



# BELLRINGING

Someone said to me the other day, "You and your bell ringing, Rosanne, you love them don't you?" Well, yes I do. It doesn't seem so long ago when the bells of our parish church hung silent except when a visiting team came and brought them to life. Nowadays we have a small and very enthusiastic team of ringers whose efforts gladden the heart as we walk to church on a Sunday.

The problem is that little word "small". You see it only takes a family holiday, ill-health or any other personal reason for the team to become depleted and two or three bells just don't sound the same. We are in dire need of about three or four people who would like to learn to ring.

Practice is on Monday evenings from 7.30 pm. Lessons are given by a "real" campanologist who rings at Christ Church Cathedral. I gather that the whole evening is a very sociable affair and no-one expects skilled performances for months and months. I wonder if there is anyone out there who might find bell ringing a new and worthwhile hobby? Why not read Margaret Weller's article this month and think about it?

**Rosanne**

## ST. JAMES' BELL RINGERS AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

On Saturday 9th July many of the towers in Oxford were open to bell ringers in the Diocese to celebrate the Festival of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. The bell towers opened for this event included those at New College, Christ Church Cathedral, Lincoln College (one of only two libraries in the world to contain a ring of bells), and Carfax, as well as those at the churches of St. Thomas, St. Mary Magdalen, and St. Aldate. All were under the strict and careful eye of experienced stewards to ensure that us less familiar bell ringers were safe - and probably to also make sure that we didn't damage their bells!

Margaret Craig and I chose to ring at Christ Church Cathedral and arrived bright and early for a 9 am start. It was a beautiful English summer's day as we entered Christ Church through Tom Gate and seeing Christopher Wren's Tom Tower against a perfect blue sky set the tone for an amazing day. We made our way to the cathedral tower for registration and even climbing the tower was quite an experience. The spiral stairwell had very low

thick wooden beams at the top which we had to bend under (quite surprisingly there was a Health and Safety notice to 'Mind Your Head') and then a door opened to a most grand ringing platform where people were gathered already waiting to ring.

There are twelve bells at Christ Church Cathedral. Each time the visitors rang there were experienced ringers on several bells and then we were slotted in between them. I watched carefully how the other visitors were managing the bells and was really impressed with one boy in front of me who was probably only 11 years old but was ringing particularly well even though the bell was quite heavy. When it was my turn I was assigned to the number 2 bell and whilst I can't claim that I rang anywhere near to the standard that the cathedral is used to, I don't think that anyone will ever have enjoyed it as much as I did. While I was ringing I was quite mesmerized to think I was actually ringing in Christ Church - I just couldn't believe it! Finally the resident Christ Church ringers rang a peal which was simply exquisite

and sitting right in the bell tower listening to the bells was quite heavenly. We are so lucky in Oxford to have such wonderful bells and accomplished ringers to make the most of them.

Later in the morning in Christ Church Cathedral there was a Festival Service of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers taken by The Venerable Julian Hubbard, Archdeacon of Oxford. We had a full Eucharist service with communion. The hymns included 'Be still for the presence of the Lord', 'O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end' and 'We have a gospel to proclaim'. With the cathedral choir and so many men in the congregation of bell ringers from throughout the diocese we raised the roof which was wonderful and nearly up to par with listening to the bells!

Margaret Craig and I had the most amazing day and all because we ring at St. James'.

We practise on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9. Why not come along and have a go - you may get hooked like the rest of us.

**Margaret Weller**

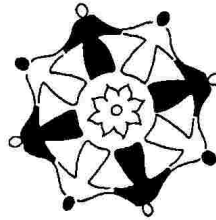
# Another Appeal

We really try, The Chronicle team, to make the monthly magazine appealing but recently we have been asked to make several different "appeals" to our readers. Many of you will remember that about three years ago Thelma Telling asked us to tell you about a scheme she had discovered to raise cash for worthy causes, namely collecting plastic milk-bottle tops. At St James' the scheme ground to a halt but all this time Thelma has continued and her garage now houses hundreds, nay thousands, of them. She tells me she has £23 worth all bagged up and many more waiting to be cleaned and sorted.

Now Thelma has reached the stage where she is finding the whole project too much for her due, mainly, to her ill-health. She has a friend who lives out at Hook Norton who has enlisted the help of many folk including the village school children who are all avid collectors. So Thelma is convinced the project has a future if she can only find someone to keep it going. She is appealing to the folk of Cowley to take it on – someone, such as a school, WI or Guides may be – who will collect bottle-tops for their favourite charity.

Obviously storage is an issue as is getting them to a pick-up point. To find out more about where to send them this is the telephone number: 02329670399. To contact Wendy Hills, Thelma's friend who is keen to support the scheme (Telephone: 01608 730452).

All recycling projects must be worthwhile and all projects that raise money for charity are so perhaps there is someone out there ready to take this on.



## Women's Group Cowley

We are a group of women who meet fortnightly to make friends, meet new people, learn new skills, and generally enjoy ourselves. We also invite speakers to come and talk about subjects that interest us, as a group we decide what we would like to talk about each time we meet.

We are from different backgrounds and cultures with a range of age groups, the one thing we have in common is we are women who enjoy each other's company.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in then please come along, the next meeting will be on the **14<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at St James Church Centre, Beauchamp Lane Cowley.**

For more information please contact  
[lorettajanereid@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lorettajanereid@hotmail.co.uk).



**'Please disregard the music director's admonition to 'clap your hands, stomp your feet, and boogie till you drop' during the next hymn.'**

# Knitting for Age UK Oxfordshire

In the last edition of the Cowley Chronicle we asked you to pick up your needles and knit little hats for the Innocent Smoothies to raise money for Age UK. Here is one of the patterns:

1. Pop your feet up with a cup of tea
2. Using double knitting yarn and some small needles, cast on 28 stitches
3. Knit 2 rows. Then, starting with a knit row, work in stocking stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row, knit 1 row etc) for 12 more rows.
4. For the next row, knit 2 together to the end (14 stitches) and for the row after that, purl 2 together to the end (7 stitches).
5. When you've finished, cut the yarn leaving about 25 cm. Thread the cut end of the yarn through a sewing needle, then run it through the loops and remove the knitting needle.
6. Tighten the yarn and sew the little hat together at the side. Once finished, turn it right-side out so that the seam you've just sewn runs up the inside.
7. Just to check you're on the right track we reckon when laid out flat, the hat dimensions should be about 5-7 cm along the bottom and at least 3 cm high.
8. Sew a little bobble onto the top of the hat. If you didn't learn how to make bobbles at school like us, please ask us for advice.

Copies of this and other patterns available at the Churches and the Church Centre.

REMEMBER, THE DEADLINE IS 14TH OCTOBER.

**Joyce and Diana**

## L A M M A S T I D E

As we passed through our local countryside recently we were pleased to see the farmers beginning to harvest their crops, perhaps a little earlier this year. Let us hope that the harvest is a good one, for if the worldwide market gets really difficult, and money is still short, we may have to rely on our own home grown produce more and more. Of course, in olden times we always had to rely on what we could grow ourselves, and if the crops were poor everybody suffered. The rich people with large reserves were as always able to buy themselves out of trouble. However, the poor people, of whom there were a great many, really suffered when things were bad. They lived from hand to mouth, and had no reserves to turn to, nor money to buy elsewhere. July, which for us nowadays is usually a nice gentle summer month, was for them a crucial very critical month. As resources dwindled to nothing they had to forage around the countryside for oddments of fruit and  
16  
vegetation that they could eat to stave off the

pangs of hunger. Many of them died of starvation within sight of harvest time. So the first cut of the harvest was absolutely vital to them, and so they wished to celebrate this in their own special way. They called the occasion LAMMAS DAY or LOAFMAS, and it was usually celebrated on 1ST August, or as near as possible to that date. Traditionally, loaves of bread baked with flour milled from the first grain of the year were taken into church as a thanksgiving. Lammastide is still celebrated in some country churches today. On this Sunday, the usual communion wafers might be replaced by a loaf baked by one of the congregation and shared among the communicants. Special loaves made by the local baker's shop and shaped like a sheaf of wheat were sometimes on display near the altar in country parishes. However, whether it is at Lammastide or Harvestide we have so much to thank the good Lord for at this time of year.

**John Shreeve**



# “FRIEND” – CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Have you ever thought of spending time as a "Friend" in our beautiful Christ Church Cathedral? Well if you have, and have not been sure how to go about it, I have a solution for you.

On Mondays, October 6th and October 20th from 10am to 4pm I have been asked to find volunteers to man the information desk just inside the front door of the Cathedral. As it is October and all of the summer schools have finished most of the tourists have returned home it will not be very busy, so it would be an ideal opportunity to make a start as a "Friend".

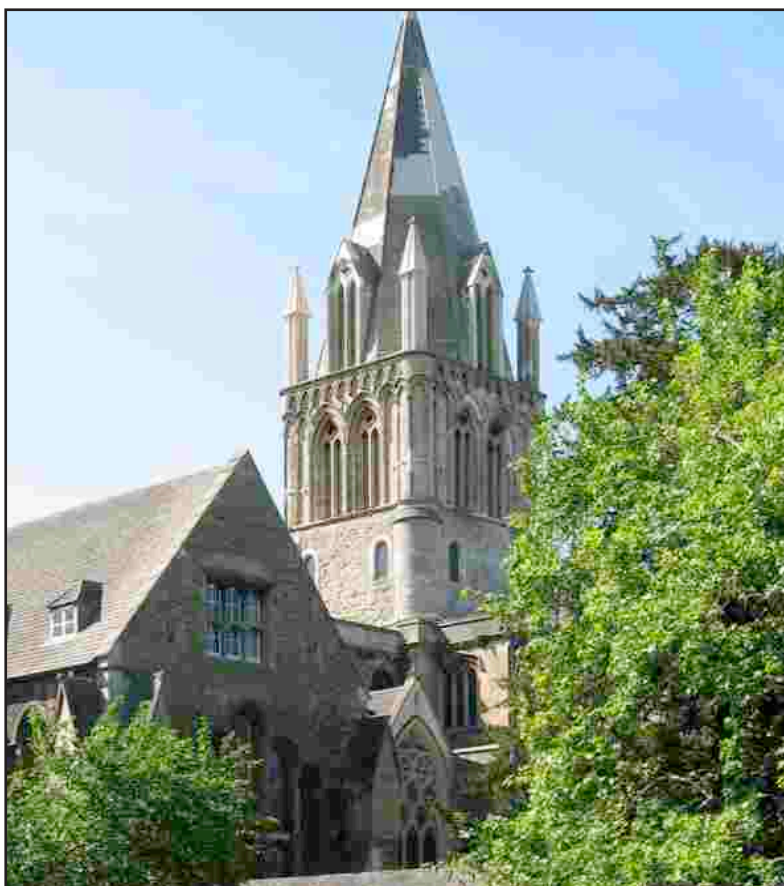
We usually work in pairs for 2 hours at a time. So if you have a couple of hours to spare on either of those days, please speak to me, I have the rota and can give you all the information you will need about what duties there are. There are always plenty of other people around to whom you can refer visitors to answer any questions they may have.

Who knows, perhaps having spent two hours in the Cathedral you may wish you had done it years ago. You could even get hooked as many of us do.

If you are interested please contact me, and I will give you all the information you require.

Many thanks. I look forward to hearing from you.

**May Morgan**



## 5th Cowley Guides

The Guides ended the summer term with a cake sale to raise funds. All the Guides completed their Anglia's 40th Anniversary Challenge badge.

On the 6th - 13th August a group of us went camping to Hardiman Fields in Shipston on Stour. This was a joint event with Guides and Leaders from 5th Cowley and 1st Blackbird Leys Guides and although we only had a small group we decided to go ahead with the camp and fun was had by all including Janine and Ashlea whose mum & dad run the Blackbird Leys unit. The weather was mixed but mostly dry and sunny; the Wednesday evening and night was extremely windy. Throughout the week the Guides took part in activities such as tie dying t-shirts and pillow cases, water safety activities, wide games, campfires, cooking popcorn over tea lights and a game of rounders - Guides against leaders. The Guides also walked into Shipston to go swimming and then had a budget to buy their own lunch and dinner which they had to cook themselves. On the Wednesday everyone caught the bus to Stratford and we had a fantastic boat trip along the river organised by Alex Cripps from Blackbird Leys Guides, followed by the Guides singing to the driver on the bus back to Shipston with classics such as the Wheels on the Bus! He thanked us for cheering up his day when we got off. A big thank you to all of those who helped with transport to the camp, and all the leaders who give up so much time and effort to organise and run these trips.

Guides start back on Thursday 9th September.

# News from Rev Richard Chand

When doing morning prayer with Howard a few weeks back we re-called that India was mentioned in the Bible. Did you know that? Yes, India is mentioned in the Holy Bible (Old Testament); Esther Chapter 1. verse 1 says: 'This happened in the days of Ahasuerus, the same Ahasuerus who ruled over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia.' So I shared that with the Asian congregation a couple of weeks back and of course some members of the congregation were not aware of this and were encouraged and got excited. In a similar vein, when the Asian Church re-joined the Parish through my post as Associate Priest, most of the congregation was encouraged that we now belong to a bigger and greater plan laid out by God for all of us together.

I can remember my family and I and the Asian Church's humble beginnings has a long history in Cowley Parish going back to the days of Fr Ian Knowles, Fr Ross in the 1980's, and then Fr Simon and Fr Keith Hayden in 1990's (at St Luke's, St James Hut then on to St James Church when my Father was in the Cowley Team Ministry) and then recently in the days of Fr Stephen Hartley and now with Howard Thornton (I am part of the Team Ministry). I can remember the Parish Coach trips to Forest of Dean, the Holy trips to Walsingham and Glastonbury.

History is being made again with the visions of both the Parish and Asian Churches for that continual dialogue, encouragement and integration of the Anglican Asian Christian Living Fellowship within the setup of this Parish. It was confirmed at the Parish away day in June 2011 when the Asian Church was mentioned as part of the dream of the future vision of the Parish. See the document put together about this Parish's mission and vision after the Parish Away Day. I am very excited and encouraged by this development and project.

Recently, I have been doing various tasks including covering for Howard, the Rector, while he has been on leave this year. I have grown in this role and have gained more Parish Priest experience. With Howard I have been revising some of the service booklets to bring them up to date. I have learned a lot of administrative work that Howard, the Rector, and the Vicar does as well, including checking and answering the Parish emails and phone calls and messages.

The family are happy and will be settling into a routine again as term starts, with Elisabeth starting her third and final year at Leicester University from September 2011. Daniel has just received his pass

marks and his Certificate for the first year of his construction course in Woodwork, English and Maths. He has been accepted now, for September 2011 for his second year doing painting and decorating Diploma Level 1 at Oxford and Cherwell College.

I will have completed the Developing Servant Leadership (DSL- Parish Priests course) when I attend the DSL evaluation session with Bishop Colin Fletcher on 22nd September 2011. I have been doing more and more services, including preaching and celebrating in both Parish Churches, taking Holy Communion at Isis House & Singletree and taking the Healing services. I have done pre-baptism meetings and confirmation classes and been involved with internment of Ashes services as well in our Church graveyard. Rebecca has been doing her duty as chalice bearer at St James very faithfully. She also, with our Asian Church Secretary, Victoria, went on the Alpha course and the Holy Spirit Day.

The Asian Church is still moving towards living it's vision document (that too can be requested by anyone) and now has a stabilised and faithful congregation which is slowly growing. It has re-introduced its Ladies Prayer meeting on Mondays at 5pm, and from September will be re-introducing the Sunday 1 pm 'Once a month Young People's service.' The Asian Church also attended and participated in the St James Ash Wednesday Service and the Saturday Easter Vigil Service. It will participate in the Parish Harvest festivities and some of the Parish Christmas events this year. Next year it is hoping for instance to extend it's appeal for the Church seaside coach trip to our Parish Churches of St James & St Francis.

Finally, I give a gentle notice, that I have just received a letter from the Houses of Parliament at Westminster London which states that I have been nominated (in our constituency) with other Ministers around the country in recognition for the voluntary community work we do in our Ministries. Hence, there is a thanksgiving service at 5 pm on Tuesday 13th September at the Parliament Church of St Margaret's. If any friends want to come with us, please let us know. The labours are all for God's glory...

May God be with us as we do our mission and move towards his vision and build God's future Kingdom together.

**Rev Richard Chand,**

# Join the March for Justice on Saturday 8 October

## Abingdon to Oxford along the Thames Path

In October 2012, 100,000 people from across India will march for just over a month to Delhi, to take part in one of the country's biggest ever protests to demand land rights for the landless poor.

The march is being organised by Christian Aid partner Ekta Parishad, which says that land reform would mean that 400 million poor people in India would be able to feed themselves, instead of being dependent on welfare handouts or charity.

This October, at least 1,000 people in India will kick off the first in a series of marches and rallies that will take place in 25 states across India in preparation for the 2012 March for Justice. Here in the UK we want to stand in solidarity with the marchers and raise money for our partner's work in India by organising our own March for Justice sponsored walks.

On Saturday 8 October 2011 we will be walking from Abingdon to Oxford along the Thames Path (8.5 miles). The walk will start at 10.30am and there will be a place to stop en route for lunch. The walk will finish with tea, coffee and cake at Wesley Memorial Church.

We plan to do the same walk in October 2012 when the actual March for Justice is taking place in India.

There will be two ways to raise money for March for Justice:

### 1. Sponsorship of £2 a week for the year between the two sponsored walks

As part of their commitment to the March for Justice in India, the marchers are putting aside two handfuls of rice each week so that they will have enough food to eat while they are marching. Many of the people taking part can ill afford to save this rice but they feel strongly enough about the cause that they are prepared to make this sacrifice in order to be able to march.

We are asking our walkers to find friends and family who would be prepared to put aside £2 a week (the approximate cost of two handfuls of rice) for the year between our two sponsored walks. Sponsors will be given a collection box to keep somewhere handy.

### 2. Traditional per mile/total distance sponsorship

You can also ask for people to sponsor you in the traditional manner, with either a fixed amount for the 2011 march or a per mile amount.

If you and your Christian Aid committee would like to take part in the sponsored walk and stand in solidarity with the marchers in India and raise money for our work in the country, then that would be wonderful. Please contact Amy or Jess for more information or to register on 01865 246 818 or email [oxford@christian-aid.org](mailto:oxford@christian-aid.org).



# BOOK OF THE MONTH

## HOUSEKEEPING BY MARILYNNE ROBINSON

Is all our striving and effort, our being and our longing directed at discovering meaning? Is our whole life a search for God? Linnaeus thought so. Roget believed it. If the world we knew could be perfectly arranged, if creation could be lined up just so and finally its patterns understood, then we could understand its Creator.

In *Housekeeping*, Ruthie Stone comes to a different conclusion about God than most of us in the parish, but her whole life, and the novel, reach toward the numinous. Ruthie and her sister Lucille grow up in their grandmother's house on the shore of a lake called Fingerbone. Years before, their grandfather was travelling home by train from a business trip when, crossing the Fingerbone bridge, "the engine nosed over toward the lake and then the rest of the train slid after it into the water like a weasel sliding off a rock", leaving a woman and three young daughters bereft. His wife "became altogether as good a widow as she had been a wife." The daughters grew up well cared for. Their mother knew "a thousand ways to circle them around with what must have seemed like grace." They grow up and leave home, one to the mission field, one to unconventional travel, and one to become a wife and mother to Ruthie and her sister.

When the lake also claims their mother, Ruthie and Lucille are raised by their grandmother and, after her death, by their aunts. The novel tells how they are shaped and formed into the adults they become.

What made me buy the book? It was published in 1980 but I don't remember hearing of it at the time. The paperback's cover is evocative, but what cinched it was a line on the front: One of the Observer's 100 Greatest Novels of all time. Surely it must be read?

*Housekeeping* was Marilynne Robinson's first novel and the writing is astonishingly ambitious. There is a bonfire. "We could watch the heat from the fire pull and tease the air out of shape, stretching the fabric of dimension and repose with its furious ascending."

In some novels, characters seem one-dimensional. Films these days aspire to 3D. *Housekeeping* is a novel in 4D. The author seems interested not only in the characters and the story, but in every relevant thing underneath, behind, around, previous to and after them.

I was reluctant to read the book too quickly, because I didn't want the story to end. I read some passages over and over, to savour them. The characters will travel in the boxcar of my imagination for many miles yet.

If you love action-packed plot-driven thrillers this may not be the book for you. But if you enjoy this extract, you might enjoy the book. Ruthie is thinking about her aunt Molly, who has gone to the mission field. "I will make you fishers of men," she reads.

"Such a net, such a harvesting, would put an end to all anomaly. If it swept the whole floor of heaven, it must, finally, sweep the black floor of Fingerbone, too. From there, we must imagine, would arise a great army of paleolithic and Neolithic frequenters of the lake – berry gatherers and hunters and strayed children from those and all subsequent eons, down to the earliest present, to the faith-healing lady in the long, white robe who rowed a quarter of a mile out and tried to walk back in again just at sunrise, to the farmer who bet five dollars one spring that the ice was still strong enough for him to gallop his horse across. Add to them the swimmers and boaters and canoers, and in such a crowd my mother would hardly seem remarkable. There would be a general reclaiming of fallen buttons and misplaced spectacles, of neighbours and kin, till time and error and accident were undone, and the world became comprehensible and whole...It was only perhaps from watching gulls fly like sparks up the face of clouds that dragged rain the length of the lake that I imagined such an enterprise might succeed...Ascension seemed at such times a natural law. If one added to it a law of completion – that everything must finally be made comprehensible – then some general rescue of the sort I imagined my aunt to have undertaken would be inevitable...What are all these fragments for, if not to be knit up finally?"

*Housekeeping*...Marilynne Robinson...I loved it.

**Carol Thornton**

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

According to the local press plans have been approved to build flats on part of Slade Park. It is interesting, therefore to read about the buildings that were set up there in 1962 to house homeless families. This article comes from the March issue of The Cowley Chronicle in 1966. It is quite an eye-opener. Does it bring to mind any first-hand recollections from our readers?

## NEW DEAL FOR THE HOMELESS

Homeless Units are big news at the moment and in Cowley, the Homeless Unit on Slade Camp is about to undergo a radical change. From May of this year, the responsibility of the Unit will fall upon the Children's Department and not upon the Health Department, as in the past. The Unit has only been in Slade Park since the Spring of 1962. Before that it was at The Laurels on the London Road, Headington. At first it consisted of two two-bedroomed huts, and one four-bedroomed hut, which were divided up to give accommodation for the Warden and a series of single rooms for the families. However large the family, the rule up to now has always been one room per family, with the regulation number of three beds. Husbands were not allowed in after nine o'clock, and had to find alternative sleeping accommodation. Cooking and washing facilities were provided, but only at the rate of two cookers and one bath to six families. The reason for this primitive type of accommodation was because it was felt that it would act as an incentive to the families to find their own homes more quickly. To house them too comfortably in the Unit might discourage them from leaving and might also appear to condone the actions of those families evicted for some offence.

It has now been realised that many of the families who find themselves in the Unit are there through no fault of their own. To provide such minimal accommodation for these families is to add to the suffering which many of the families already have. Also, for the children of the families, such overcrowding and their separation from their fathers can only cause harm. From now onwards, a general social worker is to be appointed to deal with the homeless families and with the potentially homeless (i.e. those in rent arrears or in matrimonial difficulties). It is hoped that by tackling problems which cause homelessness early, the break-up of families may be avoided.

The Homeless Unit itself is to be rearranged, so that each family will be virtually independent and fathers will be allowed to live with their families. This will remove the feeling that it is a fair punishment to a family to split them up, just when they are in greatest trouble. Quite soon, the old Sunnyside Mansions, previously independent flats, will be ready for use to house families with deep emotional, personality, or family problems. There will be a Warden in charge and families which previously would have been left to battle with problems that were insoluble, will be helped to work their way through these problems and begin a new life.

The Homeless Unit in Slade Park has been through very bad times. On October 17 of last year, there were 13 mothers and 44 children there. It is to be hoped that the plans for the future will do much to compensate for the misery and unhappiness that has been lived out in the midst of us."



Dismal, desolate

# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

## **Women's Institute Garden Party**

Wednesday, 27th July 2011, 2pm, St James Church Centre

## **Ride and Stride Day**

Saturday, 10th September 2011

## **Quiet Day**

Stanton House, Stanton St John from 10 am to 4 pm  
Saturday, 10th September 2011

## **Mission Giving**

Tuesday, 13th September 2011, at 7.30 pm, St James' Church Centre

## **Women's Group**

Wednesday, 14th September 2011, at 7.30 pm, St James' Church Centre

**Mothers' Union** "Desert Island Discs" – members' favourite books and music. Monday, 19th September 2011 at 2 pm, St James' Church Centre

## **Last Night of the Proms**

Saturday, 24th September 2011, commencing with supper at 6 pm, St James' Church Centre and St James Church

## **Welcome Back Church Services**

Sunday, 25th September 2011, Services at St James and St Francis

## **St Francis Day Service and Lunch**

Sunday, 2nd October 2011, St Francis Church

## **"Friend" – Christ Church Cathedral**

Monday, 6th October 2011, from 10 am to 4 pm AND  
Monday, 20th October 2011, from 10 am to 4 pm  
Would you like to spend time as a "Friend" in our beautiful Christ Church Cathedral? Ask May Morgan for details

## **Mothers' Union, Wine Cheese, Poetry Evening**

Friday, 7th October 2011, St James' Church Centre

## **Knitting for Age UK Oxfordshire**

Deadline 14th October 2011

## **Thanksgiving Harvest Service followed by Harvest Luncheon**

16th October 2011, Luncheon – St James' Church Centre

## **The Walk Through the Bible**

Saturday, 22nd October 2011, at 9.30 am, St James' Church Centre

## **Bible Sunday**

Sunday, 23rd October 2011, Services at St James and St Francis Churches

## **'Let's Light Up Christmas'**

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees, 9-11th December, St James' Church

## **Plant Sale**

Saturday, 12th May 2012, St James' Church Centre

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## **SIGNIFICANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER**

The wreck of The Titanic was discovered on 1st September 1985 lying in 12,460 feet of water. The ship had sunk 73 years earlier with the loss of 1,500 lives.

In 1762, September 3rd to 13th never happened in England. The calendar was adjusted to a new, more accurate system and eleven days had to be "lost" to catch up. So the day after 2nd became 14th September. This caused much confusion when people thought their lives had been shortened by eleven days.

On 6th September 1666 the Great Fire of London was finally quenched. It had started on 2nd and destroyed 88 churches, the first St Paul's Cathedral, the City gates, the Guildhall and over 13,000 homes. Amazingly only 8 people were reported to have died.

Four French school boys squeezed into a dark cave in Lascaux in France on 12th September 1940 and discovered a network of caverns covered with Ice-Age paintings of horses, bulls, and other animals. The paintings had remained forgotten for about 17,000 years.

In 1928 on 19th September, Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse made his first appearance in the film "Steamboat Willie".

28th September is one of the best known dates in English history because on that day in 1066 William Duke of Normandy landed on the Sussex coast to do battle with Harold II for the English throne. We all know who won, don't we?!

# OXFORDSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

The Army Cadet Force (ACF) is a National Voluntary Youth Organisation, sponsored by, but outside of, the Army; and provides challenging adventurous and community activities to over 650 young people in 25 locations throughout Oxfordshire. Training and supervision are provided by Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAV). Cadets may join at 12 years old (but they must be in Year 8) and may continue until they are 18 years and 9 months. CFAV must be between 18 and 55 on joining and may serve to 65 and beyond by arrangement. Adults, who wish to take part but cannot become enlisted CFAV, may contribute as Civilian Assistants (CA); Nationally, there are around 48000 Cadets and 8500 CFAV in 1700 Detachments from Land's End to Orkney and Londonderry to Dover.

The ACF began with the semi-official Cadet Battalions that were a by-product of the call for Volunteers to guard against a feared French invasion in the late 1850s; it was very quickly realised by the great social reformers of the day, including Octavia Hill, that disciplined, ordered social interaction could have a profound and positive effect on the lives of boys from deprived backgrounds. With this enthusiastic support, by 1860 the Cadet movement was thriving; in the last 150 years it has undergone numerous changes to organisation, expanded during two world wars, contracted in the years of peace and gradually evolved into the Army Cadet Force of today. Incidentally, Baden-Powell's manual 'Scouting for Boys' that led to the world-wide Scouting Movement, was written as a Fieldcraft manual for the Army Cadet Force.

The aim of the ACF is to use the values and ethos of the British Army to inspire young people to achieve success in life with a spirit of service to the Queen, their country and their local community whilst

developing in them the qualities required of a good citizen. We value our strong local connections. The core values of HM Forces: selfless commitment, courage, discipline, integrity, loyalty and respect for others are our guiding principles and are applied in all we do. The ACF has no role in recruitment for the Regular or Territorial Army; however, Cadets who express an interest in the Armed Forces are given appropriate guidance. The proportion of Cadets joining HM Forces is only slightly above the national norm but such ex-Cadet recruits are highly prized by the Services because of the leadership qualities, confidence and self-awareness they have acquired as Cadets. Our emphasis is on exciting and challenging training, often including adventurous elements, which will give the Cadets life-long skills and confidence in their ability to achieve their goals. The ACF is open to all regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or background and we do our best to enable young people with disabilities to have a good 'Cadet experience' where they can do so in safety.

CFAV are entitled to some pay, commensurate with their rank, to compensate for unpaid leave from work or holiday used for ACF duties but most contribute far in excess of that for which they are paid. There is a career structure for CFAV and all are encouraged to progress to the realisation of their full capability, including gaining recognised leadership and management qualifications.

Cadets are encouraged to participate in a scheme resulting in a BTEC First Diploma in Public Services or Music as concrete evidence of their achievements with the ACF. All of the Cadet Forces are heavily involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and much of the ACF syllabus carries directly across into the requirements of The Award.

A typical Detachment would have

around 30 Cadets with perhaps four CFAV and would meet for one or two evenings per week in a hut, hall or school close to where the Cadets live. The Detachments are grouped into four Companies which come together to train on around four weekends per year, either at our own Training Centre in Bicester Garrison or at a suitable Training Area. Activities include leadership, problem solving, shooting, archery, Fieldcraft, navigation, physical activity and first aid training. Citizenship training, in the form of 'Cadet in the Community' forms a vital part of the syllabus and is much enjoyed by the Cadets. Occasionally, training is geared towards adventurous training with activities such as sailing, kayaking, expeditions and rock climbing.

In addition to the standard activities, Cadets take part in sport at local, regional and national level; they can also volunteer to take part in activities with our Coronna Band & Bugles, which usually means an extra night per week and more weekend commitment. It also means that they can take part in public performances, travel further afield (Malta in 2010) and learn to play a variety of musical instruments at a minimal cost. For the last several years the Band & Bugles have led the Oxford Remembrance Parade in St Giles and this has been a great source of pride for the Cadet Musicians.

The ACF is a vibrant and forward looking youth movement that provides a means to channel youthful exuberance into worthwhile endeavour. Above all, we believe in giving young people opportunities that they might otherwise not have with boundaries inside of which they can have immense fun whilst remaining safe and developing qualities that will stand them in good stead throughout their lives. See [www.oxonacf.org.uk](http://www.oxonacf.org.uk) or call 01869 259681 (0700-1200 Mon-Fri).

**Mark Batin**  
Cadet Executive Officer

# 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