

# Help the hungry

According to the CIA the richest country in the world, even in these uncertain economic times, is still the United States of America with a gross domestic product (GDP) of 9 trillion, 374 billion pounds per year. The UK ranks in the top ten; with an annual GDP of 1 trillion, 389 billion pounds we're in seventh place.

Figures like that boggle my mind. I have enough trouble balancing my financial budget each month. And sometimes I wonder how we are ever going to survive another round of increases on just about everything. The markets are jittery and once again there is worry about a global monetary meltdown. Fear is in the wind. When fear is our motivator we sometimes act to protect our own self interests, and hope can be snuffed out.

We are a wealthy country, so you may be surprised to discover how many people live in poverty. According to Barnardo's, the society that helps children and families in poverty, "3.9 million children live in poverty in the UK; that's almost 30% of children." Barnardo's believes that poverty poses the greatest threat to the well-being of families in England, because growing up in poverty negatively affects all aspects of life.

An extensive study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that, "low income is a strong predictor for low education performance." It comes as no surprise that children who lack adequate clothing or regular nutritious meals are not able to keep up with those who have plenty to eat and warm clothing to wear. That means the cycle of poverty will continue until we act to ensure that those who need help are able to receive it. In short, bad things happen to poor people, but not always.

There is a famous Bible story about Ruth, Naomi and Boaz. Ruth and

Naomi were poor widows with no visible means of support. When they arrived in Bethlehem they received the kindness of strangers, and accommodation was provided but they had no food. The barley harvest had begun. "Ruth came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech" (Naomi's dead husband). Ruth 2:3.

Old Testament law declared that at the harvest, landowners were not to reap to the edges of the field, or gather the gleanings. Instead, God insisted that this part of the crop be left for the poor and disenfranchised.

As it happened, Ruth gleaned in the field belonging to Boaz. It must have been a God incident – rather than a coincidence. Boaz was a man who respected God's law, when not everyone did. God protected Ruth and Naomi, and ensured that they had food, shelter and community support.

In Oxford, the Community Emergency Foodbank is one of many organisations working to help the hungry in our city. Based at St Francis Church, the CEF is a non-denominational, Christian organisation begun by Jane Benyon and a small dedicated group who wanted to help people in crisis. The number of collections a family or individual can receive is limited to three. But it's not just a place to go and collect food. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available on Tuesday and Friday afternoons between noon and 2 pm. Those times are crucial for those who need help. It gives them an opportunity to be listened to and find a little hope in a world that might otherwise seem dangerous and uncaring.

Another nearby groups helping the poor is The Porch, Steppin' Stone. The Porch charity runs the Steppin' Stone

**Continued overleaf**

# Chronicle

Cowley Team Ministry

October 2011

**LATE EDITION**

# Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

October already! Where is 2011 going!?

Since we last met our co-editor, Sally Hemsworth has had a hip replacement. In typical Sally fashion she has fitted in her operation with her regular monthly compilation of The Chronicle without missing a beat. We are very grateful to her and wish her well in her convalescence.

Now dare I mention preparations for Christmas? Well, yes, I think I can. It is a suspicion of mine that several of our readers have tucked away in old recipe books, some reliable recipes for Christmas goodies. If you have and you would like to share one or two please send them in to The Chronicle so that we can include them in the coming issues. It is so good to make our magazine a sharing experience.

On the subject of sharing did you realise that our September issue had no less than thirteen different writers who contributed articles? Thank you to everyone who sends in their thoughts, poems and news and here I would like to pay a special tribute to Diana Pope and her regular gardening column. I, for one, always look forward to her informative and gently humorous notes. Long may she continue to persuade us out into our gardens.

October 16th will see us all celebrating our Harvest Festival. This morning service will be followed by a special harvest lunch in the Church Centre. Have

you signed up for your ticket yet? I recommend that you do as it is guaranteed to be a lovely social occasion to say nothing of a great meal served up by our marvellous catering team.

The following Saturday, 22nd October is the date fixed for A Walk Through the Bible. This will also be held in the Church Centre. I am sorry to say I missed last year's session on the Old Testament as I heard it was brilliant. This year Howard has promised that we shall learn more than we ever knew about the New Testament. I must admit I cannot wait. Watch out for details in The Link.

Another date for our diaries is 29th October, when the clocks go back. Don't get caught out like one of our parishioners a few years ago who turned up an hour early for the morning service and could not understand where everyone was!! It is a long time to sit and read The Link before anyone else turns up!

Finally I hope you are finding our Book of the Month article interesting. This month's recommendation by Helen Beetham looks very good. Do you have a particular book you would like to share with us? I do, but I think you hear enough from me as it is!

Sorry about all the exclamation marks this month but I do talk a bit like that, don't I!?

God Bless.

**Rosanne**

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## Continued from page 1

Centre, a day-centre that offers long term support for homeless and vulnerable people who want a chance to move on from street-life and addiction. The Steppin' Stone Centre is open every day of the week except Sunday.

Jesus calls us to follow him as his disciples. Wherever he went, he had compassion on the poor and those in crisis. During October, we can help the CEF and the Porch, Steppin' Stone to feed and care for people who need it most. I invite you to bring a gift of food to the Harvest Festival Service. They take place Sunday morning, 16th October – 8:00 and 10:00 at St James Church and 10:30 at St Francis Church. (Bring what you would like, but listed below are some items that help the most.)

Helping the poor and disenfranchised is what the people of God have been called to do.

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## Suggested donation items for Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday

- Tinned Vegetables – not pulses or baked beans
- Tinned Meat
- Bottle Sauces
- Puddings
- Tinned Fruit
- Cereal
- Milk – UHT or dried
- Coffee/Chocolate/Tea
- Fruit Juice
- Sugar
- Biscuits

Ensure all food is well within its sell by date.

# Book of the Month

Time for Reflection by Ann Persson (published BRF 2011)

As I introduce you to a new book. Ann has been a dear friend of mine for many years – sharing her walk with God, especially through nature and God’s amazing creation. Now retired, she enjoys leading retreats and quiet days.

This is Ann’s second book – a book to dip into – simple yet profound – a book to encourage us in our walk with God. It opens a door to stillness and quiet, introducing us to a variety of ways to do this, to suit all personalities.

This book is a series of biblically rooted meditations providing accessible and practical routes to exploring prayer. Loosely based around the seasons of the Church year and also drawing inspiration from the seasons of nature, the meditations range from short ‘spaces for grace’ to longer exercises that can form the basis for a personal quiet day of retreat.

**Helen Beetham**

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## ‘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

with a vision of bringing hundreds of Cowley folk into our Parish church for a beautiful experience.

Proceeds to be shared between Oxford Children’s Hospital and Save the Children

### **Planning update**

Cowley folk are obviously not keen to think about Christmas too soon....so we only at the moment have our own church groups signed up to provide a decorated tree for the festival. If you have contacts in a local organisation or business and could make a personal invitation, please ask Lesley for a flyer and form.

Task groups will also need to begin work in October on Publicity - Hospitality - Programme - Stage Management.

Please join the vision!

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828

lesleyjwilliams@btinternet.com

## COWLEY PROMS 2011

On Saturday, 24th September at around 7.45 pm the church of St James' was packed to the doors with a huge audience and musicians all set to begin the third Cowley Prom. After a difficult few weeks with people not sure whether, in this present climate of financial constraint, they could really afford to buy a ticket for the concert we had a last minute rush. Demand for tickets grew so it was a great relief for the organisers to know their planning had not been wasted.

The church was bedecked with flags and bunting, the National Anthem was played and without

## COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meetings are held on 3rd Wednesday of the month at St James' Church Centre at 2 pm.

At our meeting in July we paid a visit to Magdalen College and after a very informative tour we had tea as we sat by the side of the river. Also in July we held our own Garden Party at the Centre. In August we had a coach trip first stopping at Windsor, then on to Saville Gardens, and a very good day was enjoyed by all.

Our Speaker in September was a Mr Eaton who

## The Bible in Voice and Verse

Dear Colleagues in the Deanery of Cowley

To celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible, the Cowley Deanery have arranged a special concert of words and music to be presented by Lance Pierson and friends called "The Bible in Voice and Verse". It is a journey from Genesis to Revelation featuring Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn and more.

The concert is to be held at St Clement's Family Centre, Cross Street, Oxford, OX4 1DA on Wednesday 19th October 2011 from 7.45pm.

Tickets are £5 and can be ordered from Rachel Edwards at St Clement's Parish Office, on 01865 246674 or e-mail [parish.office@stclements.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stclements.org.uk) leaving a name, address and number of tickets required.

further add the Jubilee Brass went into their magnificent first item. They played with expertise and musicality as did Brian Tidy, our church organist. The programme was enhanced by the singing of the delightful children of the Oxfordshire Young Singers and soprano, Morag Crowther.

The whole concert was a huge success with everyone going home with a smile and a head full of wonderful tunes. To add to the delight of the organisers the concert made a healthy profit of £584 for parish funds.

spoke of The Curious Disappearance of Glen Miller. We were all spellbound by his talk. We ended the meeting with a Harvest and Bring and Buy Stall.

Our October meeting will include a talk on The History of Costume Jewellery.

We are always looking for new members. Why don't you come and join us? You will be made very welcome.

**Jean Chilton**

For more information about the actual concert, there is a short video on youtube [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qg-HE\\_lbPUo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qg-HE_lbPUo) as a way of advertising the concert and a website [www.invoiceandverse.co.uk](http://www.invoiceandverse.co.uk).

With many thanks and looking forward to seeing many of you at the concert

**Revd Bruce Gillingham**

Rector, St Clement's Church

Cowley Area Dean

c/o St Clement's Parish Office

The Family Centre

Cross Street, Oxford, OX4 1DA

Tel: 01865 246674

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Deadline for the November Chronicle is the 24th October,  
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# FINN OF THE OUTBACK

Finn was a non-conformist minister living in Australia. His church and parish were situated on the edge of one of the larger towns. Included within its boundaries was quite a large tract of land situated in 'the outback', as the wilderness areas are called on that continent. He was aware that there were a number of people trying to scratch a living, mining or prospecting or farming in this rugged and inhospitable countryside. And they were definitely therefore his parishioners, but nobody seemed to know much about them, or even where they lived. The government did not seem concerned, and most people were not bothered about them. If they chose to live that sort of life that was up to them, was the general attitude. Yet he could not get them out of his mind, and felt that it was his duty to do something for them. There were no proper roads, or means of communication – no doctors or hospitals. It seemed to him that they were alright as long as things went well, but if one of them fell seriously ill or had a bad accident, they were in serious trouble. Yet what could he do about it? He felt that he had to reach out to them and probe the countryside until he found where they lived, and could speak to them. The only means of transport at his disposal then was horse or camel, and so he chose a couple of each of them, loaded them up with a few practical things that might be helpful, and things for his own survival. Then he set off on his quest. In spite of all the odds against him, he gradually made contact with people and small communities and managed to be of service. He baptised a few babies, visited the sick and tried to be of some help wherever he could. People were

very grateful that he had bothered to come out and contact them, and begged him to return.

He realised that if he was to do this on a regular basis he would need to get more finance. So he got some of his congregation to write letters to other communities giving them information about the work, and appealing for funds.

So began a long saga of treks into the outback over a number of years; progressing as transport developed from horseback to car and then on eventually to aeroplane. Then he suddenly had a touch of inspiration. If only he could know before he started what people needed or if they were in difficulties he could be much more helpful. Telephone communications were not available but radio had just been developed and might be of use. He enlisted the help of a radio expert and a two way set was invented that was small enough to be housed in an ordinary home and easy to use. These became available to many outstayers, and a time was set each day when people could go on air and voice any concerns or emergencies, and get help.

He arranged that his plane would carry a trained doctor and nurse and be available to fly to an emergency at short notice. So it was that the famous 'Flying Doctor Service' came into being – which was such a blessing to remote parts of Australia.

And it all began with one man's resolve and dedication!

**John Shreeve**

# The Origins of Cowley

## Part Fifteen : Saved by the bells

Our story has now reached the seventeenth century, a time of great unrest in the country, most severely embodied in the Civil War and the Commonwealth under Cromwell after the beheading of King Charles I.

But what of the doings in our little part of the world?

In the bell-tower of St James' Church there is an old and rather small wooden box. It is fixed to the wall and contains an old silver shilling and a small tribute to a man named Thomas Westbrook. This is his story and his association with our parish.

Thomas was a shepherd who lived in Horspath and would drive his sheep to Oxford market along the very convenient causeway road (Cowley Road) which had been made by the villagers of Cowley.

We don't know the exact year when this story began but we do know the exact day. It was four days before Christmas, coincidentally St Thomas' Day, and it must have been a Wednesday as that (as we know thanks to King Henry II) was always market day.

In December the days are short and Thomas obviously lingered in Oxford longer than was wise. I like to think that he made such a good bargain for his fat sheep that he had enough money to treat himself to a drink (or two or three!) in one of the many taverns which abounded around the Carfax area. Or could it be that he was hard put to sell his sheep and was forced to stay on at market longer than he intended?

Anyway, having left the city by the east gate and crossed the Cherwell over the petit-pont (Magdalen Bridge) he headed for home on a cold and pitch dark evening. We have already, in former episodes

considered how dangerous it was to cross the marshy land between Oxford and Cowley so Thomas must have known that if he lost his bearings and accidentally stepped off the causeway it would be highly likely that he might drown. It was a lonely, uninhabited place and the poor man did lose his way. He had no way of knowing in which direction Horspath, with its home and hearth, lay.

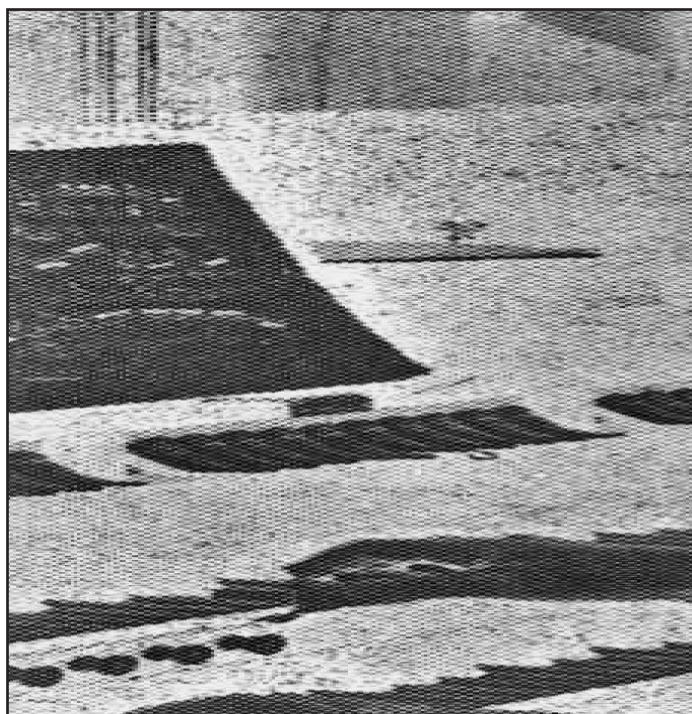
Now it so happened that the bell-ringers of Cowley parish church were that very evening practising their ringing ready for the forthcoming Christmas services. The sound of the bells rang out across the marshy plain and reached poor Thomas' ears. He recognised them and found his bearings. With relief he found the muddy lane towards Cowley and set off home safe and sound.

No-one in Cowley knew anything of this episode until after Thomas died. In his will he told of what had happened in order to explain one of his bequests. It would seem, by the way, that he must have become a wealthy man by the end of his life. He bequeathed £15 to the poor of Cowley "in gratitude for his deliverance on that dark December night.

That, of course, was a magnificent sum, in the seventeenth century. So what about the silver shilling in the bell-tower? Well he also bequeathed a sum of money in trust to provide a shilling a year to the bell-ringers of St James' Church to have a Christmas drink on him in gratitude for saving his life. The Westbrook shilling charity continued until well into the 1930s and the last one still hangs on the wall for all to see.

More about the folk of Cowley during the turbulent times of civil war next month.

# FROM THE ARCHIVES



We have just found this photograph and entry about Brian Tidy in the January issue of the Cowley Chronicle in 1964. Doing the subtraction sum we make it almost 58 years since Brian began his marathon on the organ at our parish church. What dedication! We also note that there is no mention of the “fairer sex” when it comes to choir members. When did equal rights take over amongst our

choristers – does anyone remember?

Brian Tidy has been organist of St James’ Church since 1954, but his first appointment came when he was only 16, after he had been a chorister at Worcester Cathedral for ten years. He learnt to play under David Wilcox and Charles A Myers.

During the war, he continued his musical interests by taking part in concert parties in the RAF in Egypt. Before coming to St James’, he played for a short time at Kidlington and Nuneham Courtenay.

His hobby is opera, especially those of Verdi and Wagner, and he says his musical tastes in church are ‘catholic’. He is willing to try anything that will encourage the congregation to sing. At the moment, the standard of congregational singing is “terrible.”

He, with the other two organists, stresses the need for more choirboys and choirmen who are prepared to give up sufficient time for the necessary practices. One encouraging fact – he has two organ pupils.



## 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.

*Last month’s answer: Cowley barracks*

# Rosanne Interviews **Loretta Reid**

I suppose you could describe Loretta as a girl who followed her heart. Her arrival in Oxford was the result of falling in love with a young man who is now her life's partner and who is the father of her two lovely daughters. She was already expecting her first baby, Eva, when she and Jasper bought their house in Littlemore. She told me that it was in a pretty poor state when they moved in having been neglected by an elderly single gentleman for years. However, it has now been transformed into a light, airy, comfortable, family home and it was there, with two-year-old Seren, playing on the rug, that she talked to me.

Loretta grew up in a small village in Northamptonshire. With three sisters quite a lot older than her it was a considerable consolation for her that she was born a twin. She has been close to her twin brother all her life. As her parents chose a Roman Catholic primary school for their two youngest children it meant quite a journey in to Northampton each day. At first they were taken in the family car but as they grew older it meant a daily bus ride when it was comforting to know they had each other for support. She told me that she has happy memories of those early years, sharing games, hunting bugs and beetles and all the lovely things that children do, with her brother. Family holidays were spent happily in a house owned by them in Ireland.

School, at first, was rather overwhelming but not for long. Being a sociable child she soon made friends and was, before

long, being told-off for being too talkative. She vows that that trait followed her throughout her school career. Though a bright child who found lessons a breeze she was never a high-flyer, not like her brother who went on to do very well academically. Her favourite lessons were English and religious studies. She enjoyed drama lessons but was never confident enough to take part in school productions. Her one dread at secondary school was sport. She truly hated PE lessons and shunned sport of any kind.

Having achieved good "A-Level" grades at eighteen she decided that the world of work was waiting for her. She had already done a part-time job with an events agency whilst still in the sixth form. She loved meeting the public so she walked into the biggest pub in town and offered her services as a waitress. She worked six days a week and found that with the generous tips she earned on top of her wages she could afford to move into a shared house with a group of other girls. She enjoyed it very much including a lively social life after working hours. She moved on from her original job to become, at twenty-one, an assistant restaurant manager. A couple of years on and she had begun to tire of the unsociable hours the job entailed.

Her sister offered her employment in her office in London. A country girl at heart, Loretta decided not to move to the big city but to commute from Northampton daily. During that time she acquired useful office skills and

at length felt ready to apply for something similar nearer home. She found a job with an Oxford company called OPUS which had a small office in Northampton. She began by doing ordinary office jobs like answering the telephone and worked her way up to a customer service manager. One young software developer, who would fairly frequently come over from Oxford, was named Jasper. It would seem that some pretty obvious matchmaking went on amongst their company colleagues because after an initial meeting for drinks after work Loretta and Jasper were soon seeing each other regularly. It goes without saying that love prevailed and to come back to my opening remarks, Loretta joined Jasper in Oxford five years ago shortly before their first child was born.

When Eva was a toddler a friend mentioned that there was a lovely parent-and-baby group called Seashells which met at St James' Church Centre. Loretta took her little daughter along and they soon became regulars. It was at one of these Tuesday morning sessions that Howard offered leaflets to the parents about Church at the Centre. This is a monthly, informal Sunday service for parents and children. Loretta and her family came along. An Alpha course caught her eye and she joined. Now she is fully integrated into the life of St James' Church "family". Indeed, so much so that she is co-founder and leader of the new fortnightly women's group in our parish. God was not on her agenda (as she puts it) when she was a teenager but He is now. In fact she has found



Him again and is a very happy lady.

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

Very talkative, sociable, not awfully confident.

**Have you any never-to-be-forgotten childhood memories?**

My dad retired when my brother and I were about fifteen. We went on a Royal Caribbean cruise and we all got dressed up in our evening clothes for dinner except that our mum came to the table with no shoes on. The waiter spoke to her and she told him that her shoes did not fit because her feet had swollen up! Daniel and I were dying of embarrassment (can you imagine?!). We still laugh about it.

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

I guess my elder sisters. When I was younger they were the ones I talked to. We used to go and

stay with them in their homes in London. They were grown up people but (importantly) not parents.

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

It has but it has changed. It got forgotten during my teenage years. I call it “work in progress”.

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

I have to be optimistic because I have children. I get cross when I hear all the news about banks etc. I feel that some important things like the situation in Africa gets swept over. I get cross when this country gives them a couple of million pounds to shut them up. I get cross with people who do not try to find the reason why kids are just hanging around. I do not like watching the news, it depresses me.

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

I would change the way the media perceives women. I would get rid of the idea that they are only beautiful if they are skinny and glamorous.

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

Definitely now – my self-confidence has grown massively in the last six years.

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

I love cycling and camping as a family. I love eating out because I am the only cook in the house. I love a lovely glass of wine. I have always got a book on the go – at the moment Ken Follett’s “World Without End” – brilliant.

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

It would be lovely for Jasper and me to go travelling. It would be somewhere exotic perhaps on the other side of the world, when our girls are grown up enough to be doing their own thing.



**“Great message on patience, Pastor.**

**I loved the way you illustrated by telling those kids to sit down and shut up”**

# NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

After the brief break in August, things are beginning to hum again at this end of the Parish. We had our Church Management meeting recently which went very well. There was much constructive discussion conducted in a happy atmosphere. For various reasons we are having to postpone our Autumn Fair, but our Caribbean evening will go ahead as planned. Norah, our warden, wants it to be a bit more multicultural this year.

Our various building concerns are still on-going, and are being addressed. Sadly we have suffered some more vandalism recently. Several of the side windows have been broken deliberately, resulting in more expense, when we can ill afford it. Our chief headache at present is our lighting which is proving more difficult to solve than we had thought. We must get this sorted before the really dark winter evenings come along.

We had quite a good Ride and Stride Day

recently. Two of our congregation took part and were supported by good pledges. As a church we remained open all day, unlike some. We were pleased to welcome the riders and offer them refreshments if needed, and we had good conversations with some of them. Shirley and Paul kindly arranged that the body of the church was made up as for Sunday Services, which gave people a clear view of what it is really like.

Last Sunday we had a really good service presided over by Richard Chand. We were pleased to welcome in our midst Jenny Creed, who was once a regular member of our congregation. She moved away from Oxford to the Welsh border country. She was recently appointed as a Lay Reader in her local parish. So the nurturing that we did years ago here has brought forth good fruit, long may it be so.

John Shreeve

## *Mothers' Union News*



There are two dates in October which our Cowley branch are looking forward to very much. The first one is Friday, 7 October, when, in response to popular demand, we are holding another Wine, Cheese and Poems evening. This, of course, is open to everyone in the parish. If you have not tried one yet I can promise you that you will be surprised at what a pleasant occasion it is. We ask our guests to bring along a favourite poem or two and if they are too shy to read out loud someone else will do it. A buffet supper with wine, or soft drinks, is included in the ticket. We are asking £4 if you bring a poem, £5 if you don't. The event is held in the Church Centre beginning at 6.30 pm. All profits will go to support Mothers' Union projects abroad in their work with families in remote regions. There are areas of Africa, as we well know from our TV screens where help is so desperately needed. It is out there that the Mothers' Union does such good work.

At our branch meeting on 18th October we have a guest speaker, Rosemary Pierce, a well-known face in the Mothers' Union movement in our diocese, who is speaking on our current theme for 2011. This is Relationship not Rules. We are confident that everyone in our branch will want to hear her.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES IN OCTOBER

It was on 1st October 1843 that The News of the World newspaper was first published.

The first complete English language Bible, translated by the Yorkshireman Miles Coverdale, rolled off the presses in Zurich on 4th October 1536. The Bible was dedicated to King Henry VIII.

On 9th October 1967 British motorists were stopped by police for the first time and required to blow into a little plastic bag. The first breathalysers had arrived.

The first British decimal coin was introduced in 1970. The 50p piece was launched that year on 14th October.

21st October is Trafalgar Day. On this day in 1805 the battle was fought between the British and French navies. "England expects that every man this day will do his duty" was the message sent to the fleet by Admiral Lord Nelson at 12 noon. At 1.15 pm the Admiral was mortally wounded but before he died he learned that the French had been defeated.

On October 26th 1965 The Beatles received their OBEs from the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Thousands of fans waited outside the palace gates to catch a glimpse of them.

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## *St Francis Primary School, September 2011*

Seven staff and over sixty children have joined our school this September. We have had a busy start to our new school year with the introduction of a breakfast club. The after school club, Funtasium, continues to be very popular. There is a range of after school activities and clubs open to the older children. Most excitingly the choir has started to rehearse with other Oxfordshire schools in preparation for a performance at The Royal Albert Hall in November.

As part of the run up to the Olympics the Year Six pupils have been to Blenheim Park and were coached in a range of sports including volleyball and handball. Lesley Williams hosted a NAPE (National Association of Primary Education) story telling session at the school and over 60 teachers attended this after

school meeting and were inspired and encouraged to tell more stories in their schools.

The children will have the opportunity to write for extended periods during the week and are to be provided with special paper, pencils, music and lighting to make it even more enjoyable.

The topics the children are studying this term include Superheroes, Rocks and Soils, Houses and Homes and Blood, Bones and Body Bits.

The Key Stage 1 children are to visit St Francis Church later in the term and we all look forward to greater involvement with the church and parish in the coming school year.

**Sarah Lacey**

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**A census taker knocked on old Miss Wilson's door. She answered all his questions except one. She flatly refused to tell him her age.**

**"Everyone has to state their age", he protested**

**"Oh yes", she answered, "So did Miss Elsie Hill and her twin sister, Nellie, tell you their ages?"**

**"Of course", he replied**

**"Well, I'm the same age as them".**

**The census taker wrote on his form – "As old as the Hills."**

# SAINT OF THE MONTH St Paulinus

Thanks to the writings of The Venerable Bede we have a vivid description of this month's saint. Most people like to have a picture of a person in their minds when they read about them so this is what Bede said – “a tall man with a slight stoop who had black hair, a thin face and a narrow aquiline nose, his presence being venerable and awe-inspiring”. So who, then, was this “awe-inspiring” man?

He was sent from Italy to Britain in 601 AD by Pope Gregory the Great with vestments, documents and other papers to support St Augustine and his monks in their missionary work here. By that time the kingdom of Kent had embraced the Christian faith. Their king Edbald had a young sister who had been wooed by Edwin, King of Northumbria. Because Edwin was still a pagan his requests were refused. However, he must have been very much in love with Princess Ethelburga as he promised that he would give complete freedom of conscience to her and her household if she would agree to the marriage. That was where Paulinus came in because it was agreed that he should travel north with her as her chaplain. Edwin had even hinted that he might become a Christian himself.

The pagan high-priest of Northumbria, Coifi,

decided, after listening to Paulinus that he would abandon his pagan gods and turn to the Christian faith. This became the deciding factor for King Edwin and after several years of Paulinus' teaching he and his new baby daughter were baptised in a little wooden church in York at Easter 627 AD. Ethelburga was delighted. Paulinus had been made the first Bishop of York and he baptised hundreds of nobles, their families and households in the rivers Trent, Swale and Derwent thus establishing a strong Christian community in those areas.

All was going well until two pagan kings went to battle with King Edwin. They were Penda of Mercia and, his ally, Cadwallon of Wales, and Edwin was slain. Now aged sixty Paulinus escorted the widowed Ethelburga back to the safety of the Kingdom of Kent. He then took on the see of Rochester where he served for the rest of his life. He died on 10th October 644AD and this is now his saint's day.

Paulinus had been a great influence in bringing the faith to Northumberland and large areas of the north of England. Five ancient churches are dedicated to him and there is now a community of monks at Canterbury and Rochester who revere him.

# REPORT FROM COWLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, 20 SEPTEMBER 2011

The following matters were discussed at the meeting:

- Accounts 2011, which indicated the pressure on the various budgets
- Renovation of 1881 painting of St James Church – this would be renovated and hung at the Church Centre (on loan to the Centre and not for sale)
- Legacy giving – an article will follow in a later edition of The Chronicle
- PCC Away Day, 18th June 2011 – discussions taking place with other churches in Oxford to energise us to learn to be effective missionaries in Cowley and to look at ways to encourage residents/students in the Cowley Parish to be involved with the Churches
- Repair work at St James' Church, St Francis' Church and the Church Centre
- Discussion on advertising in the Cowley Chronicle is going to be discussed at the next PCC meeting
- Work is taking place on the Parish Profile to allow the appointment of a Team Vicar to take place.

The next PCC meeting is on Tuesday, 15th November 2011, at St James Church Centre



## THANKYOU

I am most grateful to you all for your best wishes, cards, and prayers and other generous actions. I am making very good recovery now after my hip operation and am now able to get out and about more and more.

Les has been really great in supporting me in so many ways. We have also worked together on getting the paperwork ready for this edition of The Chronicle which has been very helpful in my recovery.

Best wishes to you all.

Sally Hemsworth

**“And this petition requests changing ‘ sinner’ to ‘person who is morally challenged.’”**

# Recipes

With lots of pumpkins in the shops in October we have come up with these recipes. I can recommend the soup which is delicious. I have not tried the pie yet so I thought it might be worth a try.

## Pumpkin Soup

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 small onions sliced and pushed out into rings
- 1 lb pumpkin skinned and chopped
- 2 pints chicken stock
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 large stalk of celery, chopped
- 1 large potato peeled and chopped
- A tablespoon of lemon juice
- A dash of tabasco sauce
- 8 fl ozs double cream
- 1 teaspoon paprika

In a large heavy saucepan melt the butter over moderate heat. Add the onions and pumpkin and cook gently for about 6 minutes stirring occasionally. The onions should be soft but not brown.

Stir in the stock and add the celery, potato, salt, lemon juice, tabasco and a teaspoon of paprika.

Turn up heat, bring to the boil and stir. Turn heat to low, cover the pan and simmer for 35 minutes until all the veg are very tender. Remove from stove, pour through strainer into large mixing bowl

press veg with back of a wooden spoon to remove the juices. Throw the pulp away. Stir in cream to soup, return to pan and heat gently, stirring but not allowing soup to boil.

Can be served with croutons on top if desired.

## Pumpkin Pie

One 9 inch flan case made with uncooked shortcrust pastry

For filling:

- 4 ozs brown sugar
- 1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- A pinch of ground cloves
- 24 ozs pureed pumpkin
- 3 eggs lightly beaten
- 10 fl ozs single cream

Put the flan case on baking sheet

Set oven to gas mark 5/190°C

Mix sugar and spices in small mixing bowl

In large mixing bowl combine eggs and pumpkin with a wooden spoon. Gradually add all other ingredients and beat until smooth.

Pour filling into pastry case and bake for 45 to 50 minutes until a knife comes out clean from the middle.

Can be served hot or cold.

# Join in "Living Faith Worldwide"

In Germany every other year, about a hundred thousand Christians join together in the Protestant Kirchentag. It's an extraordinary festival of music, Bible studies, exhibitions, talks, worship and more ... all focusing on Biblical themes and current questions. At the end, when they announce the next event, they say "If God wills, and we live ....the next Kirchentag will be ...."

Well, if God wills and we live, on 15 October, at the Living Faith Worldwide conference in Reading, people will likewise gather from around the diocese and around the world to see how together we can better know Christ and live out our Christian mission.

The conference will take place from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at St John's and St Stephen's Church and St John's Primary School, Orts Road RG1 3JN.

Bishop John will start us off with a reflection on how a global perspective can enrich our "living faith." We'll begin by getting a picture of different ways of making disciples. The opening panel will include Bishop Lawrence, from our link diocese of Nandyal (South India) and Bishop Andrew. Bishop Lawrence will share news about his diocese's inspiring evangelism programme, and Bishop Andrew will speak about his experiences in Ethiopia.

Later in the day, we'll look at how churches worldwide are making a difference in their communities. The panel discussing this will include Janette O'Neill, the new chief executive of USPG; Katarina Toll Koril, one of our Swedish partners; and UK church leaders. There will be inspiration - as well as a genuine engagement with the challenges of global and local mission.

In between, there will be more than a dozen workshops led by staff from CMS, Christian Aid and Tearfund and the diocese. You can take your pick of everything from how to think about gap-year missions, to campaigning for justice with partners from around the world, to an introduction to the diocesan links, to how church schools can get the most out of their links. We'll also have two "semi-keynotes" during this time: one will talk about training Christian leaders and the other about the ways our worldview shapes our theology.

Throughout the day there will be a marketplace, where you can see what the diocesan links, agencies and local churches are doing ... and how you can get involved.

The cost for the day is £7 waged or £2.50 unwaged (includes students and young people). Tea, coffee (and biscuits, of course!) and conference materials are included. Advance booking is essential to avoid disappointment: email [lfwbookings@gmail.com](mailto:lfwbookings@gmail.com) or ring 01235 850267.

It's been said "It takes a whole world to know Christ." Let's join together with people from around our whole world and seek to know Christ better. See you there ...

## REAP WHAT YOU SOW

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind

Peace of heart

Peace of soul

Plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful

Lettuce be kind

Lettuce be happy

Lettuce really love one another

No garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for service when needed

Turnip to help one another

Turnip the music and dance

Water freely with patience

And Cultivate with love

There is much fruit in your garden

Because you reap what you sow

To conclude your garden

We must have thyme:

Thyme for Fun

Thyme for rest

Thyme for ourselves

By Rose Whitehead, Gerrards Cross

Printed in *Choice*, July 2011

# THE TALL SHIPS

Some years ago Marlene and I were privileged to watch the end of the famous “Tall Ships” race which finished in this country that year. We stood and waited by the side of the Mersey as they sailed gently up the estuary bound for the Port of Liverpool after their long sea race. What a magnificent and unforgettable sight they were, with their white sails billowing in the wind. Later we went down to the harbour and were able to inspect them more closely as they rode at anchor by the quayside. They were indeed impressive with their tall masts and ropes and rigging, and their rakish lines.

Now, it is not generally known that John Masefield, the Poet Laureate, hankered for a life at sea in his younger days. And he actually completed a training course for midshipmen in the Merchant Navy. He passed with honours amongst the top twenty in his year. He was then assigned to his first ship for real practical sea training. It turned out to be one of the old clipper ships – those stately sailing ships, known as the Tall Ships. When he joined her she was loaded up and bound for South America. So it is not surprising that some of his best loved poems should be about the sea and sailing ships. Probably the best known of these is “Sea Fever” which begins as follows:

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,  
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sails shaking  
And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking.

His first voyage was relatively smooth and uneventful until they came to round the tip of South America and the infamous Cape Horn notorious for its tricky winds and rough seas, and there they sailed into a vicious storm with huge seas and terrifying winds.

There was only one thing they could do under such circumstances, reef the sails, before they were ripped to pieces by the terrible winds. So young John, a young lad of barely 16 years, and just out of training, was ordered up aloft to the top of the mast, over a hundred feet above the deck, to cope with this mizzen sail. Under those conditions, with the ship tossed about like a cork in mountainous seas, and the mast swaying about in the wind, it must have been a terrifying ordeal for him. The sail was wet and heavy with ice. Somehow he completed the job along with his other compatriots, and miraculously the ship survived, although quite badly damaged. And she was able to limp down the coast of South America to her first port of call and unload her cargo.

Sadly, John's health cracked up under the very tough life aboard ship, and he was invalided back home to recover. Eventually he came to the conclusion that this sort of life was not for him, and he turned to his second love, which was writing. So the Navy's loss was our gain, for he was able to produce those vivid and moving poems which delighted our nation. Based on real life experiences they spoke to our hearts as few have, before or since.

**John Shreeve**



# MOUNTAIN CHURCHES

When we think of the Himalayan region we normally think of mountains, climbers, snow, perhaps a snow leopard or Tibet the home of the Dalai Lama. But today there is something else special about this region.

The Himalayan region is one of the regions of the world where Christian churches are growing more rapidly than anywhere else. In countries such as Nepal, Mongolia, north India and even Bhutan and Tibet new churches are springing up and growing each day.



## HIMALAYAN GOOD NEWS NETWORK

A local Cowley charity, Faith2Share is working with these churches to train their leaders. Last year the parish of Cowley gave a grant to Faith2Share and some of that money has been used to train leaders like those shown here very close to Mount Everest.

Faith2Share works with the Himalayan Good News Network which provides a mobile training school for hundreds of church leaders every year. Their leader, Dawa Singye (pictured at the centre of the front row), visited Cowley in 2009 and also met with Mark Oxbrow and other Faith2Share staff in India early in 2011. In a recent email he expressed his deep gratitude, on behalf of all the new church leaders, for the support they have received from Faith2Share. Unlike most British church leaders most of these men and women have full-time jobs as farmers, teachers, mechanics or carpenters and lead their churches in their 'spare' time. The courses offered by Himalayan Good News Network help them care for the sick, prepare sermons, manage community development projects, run youth groups, and much more. When funds allow they want to run a course specifically to train youth leaders as many young people are expressing an interest in Christian life.

If you would like to know more about what is happening to churches in the Himalayan region, or you would like to support this work through Faith2Share, you can contact Mark Oxbrow (the International Director of Faith2Share) at [mark.oxbrow@faith2share.net](mailto:mark.oxbrow@faith2share.net) or 01865 787440.

**Spotted on a billboard outside a South Carolina church: 'Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him.'**

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## Ride & Stride 2011

A BIG THANK YOU to all the riders, striders and welcomers who helped to make this year's Ride & Stride go so smoothly once again. My first year as co-ordinator has gone without a hitch!

Over half a dozen of members from both congregations visited a record number of churches and we also had a steady stream of riders and striders passing through St James during the day.

Catherine Woods did a cracking job manning St Francis on her own all day and was kept very busy as a lot of riders and striders visited the church. There would have been some very disappointed riders and striders had Catherine not been on hand to sign sponsorship forms and offer refreshments. Thanks Catherine.

Pat Chambers, Millie Eastmond and I took part this year for the first time and we discovered the lovely Bartlemas Chapel. The welcomer was very knowledgeable and she gave us a very interesting history lesson. Her family had had very long links with the Chapel and she was full of pride.

We found the welcome and hospitality at each church that we visited warm and friendly and welcomers were more than happy to engage in conversation with us, while we looked round their church, before continuing to our next stop.

To date we do not have the full total raised for the 2011 Ride and Stride so watch this space and the [Link](#).

**June Smith**

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**A little girl was helping her mother to unload the shopping from the car when she noticed for the first time that mummy had a few white hairs standing out from her lovely brunette head.**

**“Mummy, why are some of your hairs white?” she asked**

**“Every time you are naughty or make me sad one of my hairs turns white”, she smiled**

**After a few moments thought the little girl asked, “So is that why all Granny’s hairs are white?”**

# DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

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 ALSO 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	Friday, 7th October 2011 – Wine, Cheese, Poetry Evening	St James’ Church Centre
Christine Aid March for Justice Sponsored Walk	Saturday, 8th October 2011	Register to take part:
Email: oxford@christian-aid.org		
Tel: 01865 246818		
Knitting for Age UK Oxfordshire		
	Deadline 14th October 2011	
Thanksgiving Harvest Service followed by Harvest Luncheon	16th October 2011	Luncheon – St James’ Church Centre
Mothers’ Union	Tuesday, 18th October 2011	
Guest Speaker: Rosemary Pierce “This is Relationship not Rules”	St James’ Church Centre	
St James’ Church Committee	Tuesday, 18th October 2011 at 7.30 pm	St James’ Church Centre
Cowley Women’s Institute	Wednesday, 19th October 2011, at 2 pm	
History of Costume Jewellery	St James’ Church Centre	
St Francis’ Church Committee	Wednesday, 19th October 2011, at 7.45 pm	St Francis’ Church
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

# 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