

Rebuild the walls

One of my heroes is a guy named Nehemiah. Nehemiah's grandparents, from Jerusalem, had been taken into captivity by the Babylonians. By the time Nehemiah came along 100 years later, the Babylonians had been defeated and he was in service to the new masters of the universe, the Persians. No matter where you are, no matter what your circumstances, you need to make a choice: "You either get busy living or get busy dying". Nehemiah got busy living in Susa, about 450 BC. If you look on a map you can see he was a long, long way from home.

In all the time they were in exile Nehemiah and his family never lost their faith. They trusted God. Nehemiah became cup bearer to the King of Persia. His job was to taste all the wine offered to the king, not to see how it tasted but to make sure it wasn't poisoned. When a cup bearer got home you never had to ask, "How was work?" Coming home alive meant he'd had a good day.

Being cup bearer was a pretty good job because it gave access to the king. The king trusted him to keep him safe. One day a delegation came from Judah, a province near Jerusalem. Because Nehemiah was part of the king's court, he had a chance to ask

about the state of affairs in Jerusalem. God's Holy City, the city of Jerusalem was in ruins; the people who had returned from exile were living in disgrace.

On hearing this, Nehemiah broke down. He wept because God's plan of love and redemption, of creating a healthy community that recognises that God is the creator of all the world, seemed to be in jeopardy. But the problem didn't stop Nehemiah. He was someone who trusts God and chooses to get busy living. So he prayed for forgiveness, he asked God to give him success in rebuilding God's kingdom, and he went to see the king.

Nehemiah's success begins with his shock at the terrible state of affairs, and his response in saying, "I can't stand things they way they are; I'm going to work and plan to make a difference." That's why he is one of my heroes. He sees a problem. He is passionate about changing things. He is a person of prayer. He trusts God. He plans for success and then he acts.

Fewer people describe themselves as practicing Christians than 30 years ago, and the number who say they have no religious beliefs has risen to 25%. It seems as though we are in the process of forgetting God. Like the walls of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's day, the walls

Chronicle

October
2013

of the kingdom are in disrepair and something needs to be done. We have some Nehemiahs in the parish, who gathered to think about rebuilding the Kingdom of God here in Cowley. They took part in our "Parish Unity Day" held in early September.

Just like Nehemiah, God is calling us to work together to rebuild the walls of his kingdom. He has given us a vision to "live out God's purposes for us, to make Christ known in Cowley, and to raise up the next generation to love and serve the Lord."

We can only do that if we are united as a parish in our vision, our faith, and our desire to see new life in Cowley. As we thought and discussed and inspired one another, we took stock of the talents of each person of the parish. We have people who are good at praying, paying, serving, teaching, loving, caring, organising, leading, building – the list goes on and on. Every person in

our church is valuable because of the gifts and skills and talents God has given them. We remembered that God has called us to be a part of what he is doing and going to do in Cowley. We need to be united in using our talents and gifts to serve God and one another.

God calls you and each of us to unite in helping, nurturing, caring and supporting each of the churches in our parish to rebuild the kingdom of God here and now. Today, more and more people act like Nehemiah. They look to see where there is a need and pray that God will use them to build His kingdom.

HOWARD

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: "You stay here; I'll go on a head".

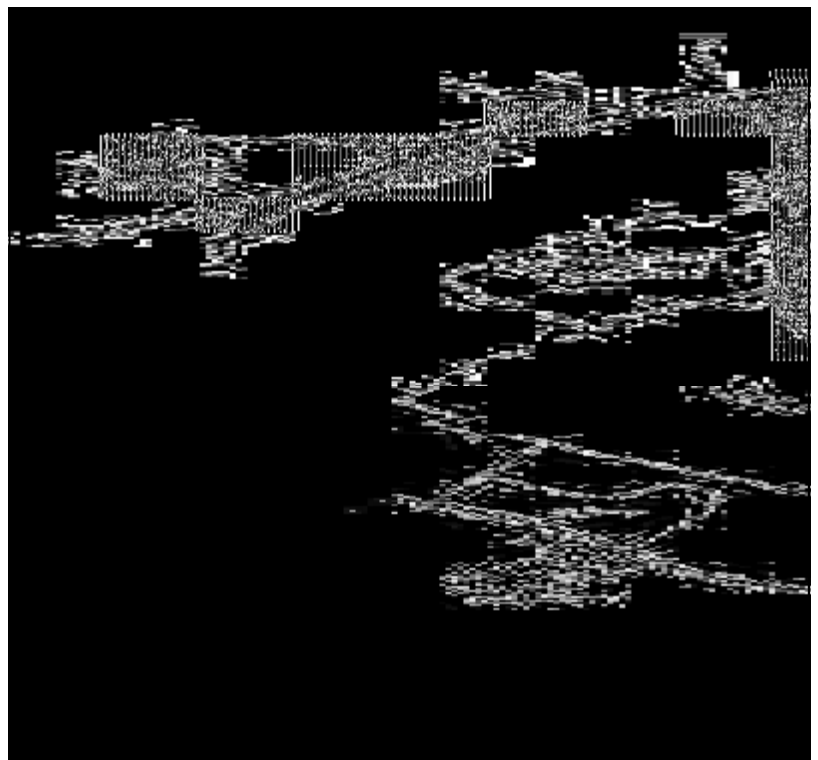
COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday, 15 October 2013
commencing at 8.00 pm

TALK: The Abingdon Waterturmpike Murder

**An Illustrated talk
by Mark Davies**

At United Reformed Church,
Temple Road, Cowley
Annual Membership fee £15 (OAP £13)
Visitors welcome £3 per meeting



Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Would you believe it, they've done it again! I am talking about those amazing gardeners at St Francis Court. After last year's success in the Oxford in Bloom competition they entered again this year and not only did they achieve a gold award but they followed it up with a silver. Congratulations to them from all at The Chronicle.

Another success to celebrate is the way the Friends of Lye Valley have challenged the developers who wanted to build ten houses right on the north edge of the valley. This would have done untold damage to the springs of water which flow through a limestone ridge thus providing specific conditions for endangered species of plant to grow. Houses mean concrete and concrete means rainwater has to be diverted. The Friends challenged the planners and permission to build was refused. By the way we did promise to print a map of Lye Valley in The Chronicle last month and lack of space prevented this so we are putting it right for you now.

I think it is right to say a big thank you to Margaret Craig for all she has done to make St James Junior Church such a success. Now that she is handing over the organisation to Josh Hordern we cannot let her go without showing our appreciation for the years of planning and dedication she has given.

I have heard from Catherine Sutherland that St Francis are planning another of their great Caribbean Evenings. Do watch out for the date. If you have not yet been to one of these super "dos" you do not know what you have missed. The whole place "rocks" (as they say) and the

food for supper is wonderful. See you there?

I am keeping my eye on the developments at the John Allen Centre and I was hoping to give you an up-date on what is going on there. I questioned a couple of chaps who were working on the landscaping part in front of the row of (promised) cafes the other day. "What are you doing there?" I asked. "Dunno, luv", came back the reply, "we just stick to the layout and do what we are told". So no information there then!

I understand that the Open Doors at St Francis was a bit of a damp squib. Well it was not a huge crowd puller at St James either. Sally and I welcomed seven people who had come to enjoy the church. Just seven! However those who did come were really impressed and complimented us on the care taken to keep the church looking beautiful. They also enjoyed the coffee and cake so I don't think our efforts were wasted.

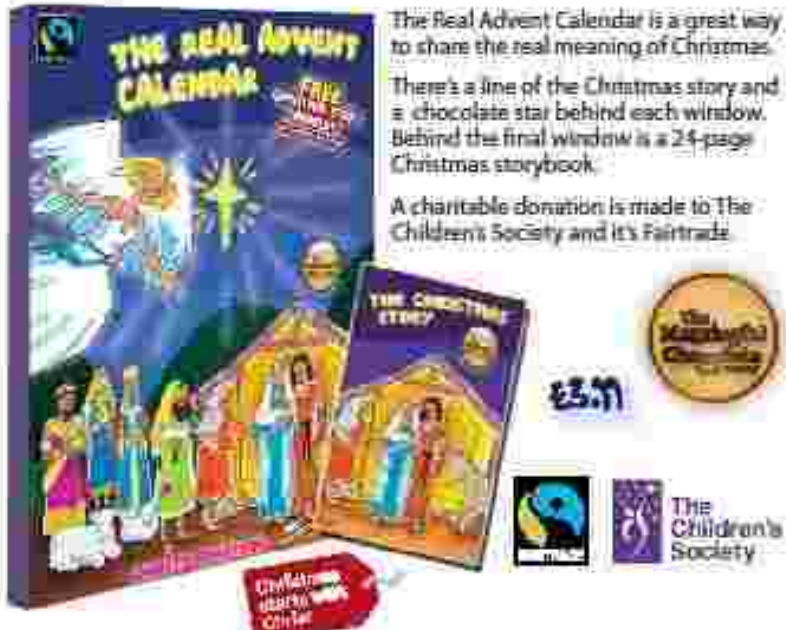
Next month we are hoping to get a report from three of our church bell ringers. The two Margarets (Craig and Weller) and Lyndsay have applied to go to a campanology course over at Stanton St John which will enhance their expertise to even greater heights. We look forward to hearing about their course and also the resulting skills they have acquired from the bell tower.

With all sorts of events coming up in the autumn, by no means the least of these being a new Alpha course, it looks as though the run in to Christmas is going to be as hectic as ever – I think I had better start writing my Christmas letters and cards this month!

God Bless

Rosanne

THE ONLY CHARITY ADVENT CALENDAR WITH A FREE CHRISTMAS STORYBOOK



The Real Advent Calendar is a great way to share the real meaning of Christmas. There's a line of the Christmas story and a chocolate star behind each window. Behind the final window is a 24-page Christmas storybook.

A charitable donation is made to The Children's Society and it's Fairtrade.

It might be difficult to believe but recent surveys show that knowledge of the Christmas story is fading. Among 5-7 year olds, 38% don't know whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas and 72% don't know Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Among adults less than 12% know the full nativity story and 51% say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas.

The Christmas Starts with Christ campaign hopes to reverse the trend by telling the Christmas story. To support the campaign we have produced The Real Advent Calendar - a new and fun way to share the Christmas story. Tesco have put the Christmas story at the centre of their range this year by stocking it. We hope you will buy one.

You can read more at www.realadvent.co.uk

Survey findings from Christmas 2007, 2008, 2011 & 2012. © Children's Society 2011.

HOW TO BUY

TESCO

TRAIDCRAFT
OFFICIALS SHOP 2013

Independent shops will also be stocking

For details visit our website
www.realadvent.co.uk/shop

The Real Advent Calendar, from the Meaningful Chocolate Company will soon be available at Tesco as well as at the local fair trade shops.

But we can make your shopping easier and order/collect them for you, if you wish. Order lists are on display in both churches and the Parish Centre: sign up by 20 October and pay Lesley Williams on receipt. You will not only be giving a Real Gift to the recipient but also supporting the Children's Society and the fair trade movement.

Postscript: we have not found a way of reaching our Christian Aid 2013 £2,000 target yet - £155 to go. There may have to be a grand raffle unless someone has another clever idea!

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Although, due to illness, a rather smaller group than usual gathered for our wine, cheese and poetry evening it was a very pleasant two or three hours. Everyone brought an amazing selection of poems some moving, some romantic and many great fun. The profit made was just over £46 which will be sent to the Mothers' Union Wheels Appeal.

The October branch meeting will be on Monday, 21st of the month when the speaker will be Anne Couldrick, Trustee of the Seesaw Charity. Apologies are due for the silly mistake I made when giving the wrong date for the September meeting. I assure you that the one above is correct!

Members and friends may like to put January 17th 2014 in their new diaries. On that evening we are holding one of our popular Puddings and Quiz evenings, hoping that the weather will be kind enough to let us reach the Church Centre and not get stuck in snowdrifts or on icy roads.

37th Oxford Scout Troop

Things have been busy (as ever!) at the scout group and explorer scout unit. We all attended the One World Oxfordshire County Camp at the start of July, which was a brilliant opportunity for over 4000 of Oxfordshire scouts to come together for a weekend of exciting activities and fun!

Also over the summer, 14 scouts/explorers attended Kent International Jamboree, which

was a week-long international experience with some scouts from around the world. This was an amazing experience for everyone involved!

We are a little low on scouts/explorers at the moment. If there are children 10 ½ -14 years old (scouts), who would like to attend, we meet on Tuesdays 7-9. Likewise, 14-18 year olds (for explorers) meet on Mondays, 7-8:30.

David Nutt

3rd Cowley Brownies

Before the summer holidays we worked on a badge called Girls in Action - making the invisible, visible.

We had a night at Florence Park. We climbed trees and tried geo caching - this was for 50 things for a free badge.

In September we went to Youlbury on a Saturday and the Brownies did the assault course and some tried abseiling. We had a packed lunch on the grass near the abseiling tower

At the beginning of July my sister Ashlea started Rainbows. She made crowns and did babies in blankets to get her Royal Baby Badge.

Janine Higham

5th Cowley Guides

Before breaking up for the summer the Guides completed a Girls in Action badge called 'Choices for Girls'. This included finding out about hopes and dreams of girls from different places around the world and what difficulties they face trying to attain them and break down inequality still faced by many of them.

The Guides also completed Glamorama Go For It. To gain this the Guides tried a face massage, painted and decorated false nails and found out about different cosmetics and toiletries.

The Guides finished with a summer barbeque for once in the sunshine.

September term has started with seven new Guides many joining from the different Brownies packs from around Cowley.

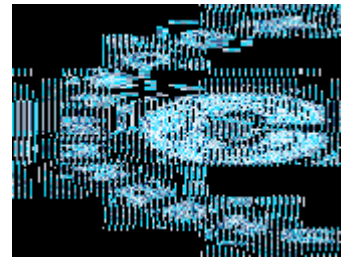
The Guides are doing two fun badges for the Autumn/Winter term a Chocolate Challenge and the Duck Challenge. For these two challenges the Guides will be cooking, doing quizzes, fabric painting, duck racing and finding out all sorts of facts about both chocolate and ducks.

The Guides are hoping to take part in the Christmas tree festival again and are planning a weekend away early in 2014.

Cynthia Retter

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FOOD BANK based at St Francis Church, Hollow Way

Despite our Welfare system, many thousands of people in this country still go hungry through debt, sickness, sudden job loss, addiction, marriage break-down, or simply delays in receiving benefit.



A number of similar projects which have started up in cities all over the country have been amazed to discover this well hidden poverty right in their midst.

The following items are needed for the CEF:

Tins of vegetables but NOT pulses or baked beans or tomatoes	
Tins or packets of soup	Tinned meat
Tins of fish	Tins of fruit
Tins of Puddings	Tinned or bottled sauces
Long life fruit juice	Rice
Pasta	UHT/powdered dried milk
Biscuits	Jams etc
Sugar	Cereals
Tea, coffee or other hot beverages	Treats

When donating food please ensure that it has "sale by date" of at least six months in advance and is clearly marked.

4th Cowley Brownies

The 4th Cowley Brownies are looking forward to another action-packed term this autumn.

As a pack, the girls are working towards their Craft badge – which asks Brownies to explore a variety of craft techniques. We've already tried printing with fabric paints onto canvas tote bags (it was messy – but the bags are wonderfully unique!), and used dried pasta and pulses to create self-portraits, which were displayed at the Harvest Festival service at St Francis church. In the next few weeks the Brownies will also turn their hands to making sun-catchers, which will work beautifully with the low autumnal sun, as well as model-making, and decopatch.

The Brownies are also planning their own activities and making their own choices, in groups, about what they'd like to do in our meetings. Some of these activities will centre around the recently-revised Promise, which was

altered to make guiding truly open to all girls and women, and to create a space where those of all faiths and none are welcome. In the new Promise, the words 'to be true to myself and develop my beliefs' will replace 'to love my God', and the words 'to serve the Queen and my community' will replace 'to serve the Queen and my country'. With this in mind, the Brownies will be planning activities to help them think about their beliefs, the beliefs of others, and how they can help their community.

Other activities we're looking forward to include cake baking, a sports evening, a pampering night where a parent is invited along to join in the fun, and, of course, a lot of game-playing and singing!

If you (or your daughter) would like to join us, visit <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested>.

Jennifer Pleass

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS

We are moving steadily along at St Francis. New seasons mean new services; new services bring new formats. But by far the most significant new format has been the introduction of the 'Experience Harvest' initiative by Skye to our church at our Harvest Festival time. This is a bold and daring idea to make Harvest more real and give some teaching, in the first place to the youngsters at our St Francis School, but also to adults as well. Set points or 'stations' have been set up at various points around the church to represent the different types of harvest. They are – Harvest of the Garden (Patience), Harvest of the Ocean (Peace), Harvest of the Flock (Humility), Harvest of the Grain (Generosity), Harvest of the Earth (Joy), and General Harvest Thanksgiving. Small groups of children are given instruction at each station, and view the artefacts, and given the chance to ask questions. A link is made between the Harvest and God. In an age when people are becoming increasingly divorced from the natural things of life this has got to be a good thing.



People need to know that our supermarkets are not the be

all of our food supply, but simply the end of the chain. We hope that this experiment will sow good seeds in the hearts and minds of our youngsters, to bring a harvest in their own lives later on. Skye is to be highly commended for her hard work in bringing this about.

Our next hurdle is our St Francis Patronal Festival in October, and planning is already taking place for this. John Tomlinson (our previous vicar) has been invited to preach on this occasion.

Patrick Gilday will be commencing his last year of study for the Ministry this October. He seems quietly confident that things are going well. We need to hold him and his wife Lydia in our prayers.

John Shreeve



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:
Rooftop, Our Lady Help of Christian Schools, from Between Towns Road*

Film Club

After the sweeping plains of East Africa (the country featured in our September film) our forthcoming October showing could hardly be more different. On 11th of the month we shall be celebrating our club's first birthday with a very English film – "A Song for Marion". This was fairly recently released and has a PG certificate. The main stars are Vanessa Redgrave and Terence Stamp who play a married couple with warmth and humour. The story is full of music, laughter and tears (so bring some tissues!).

It is amazing to think that it is a whole year ago that we sat down and worked out the possibility of monthly films at the Church Centre. For the majority of club members it has been embraced with enthusiasm even bringing along visitors to join us. There are one or two people who signed up and have still not collected their membership cards. We really encourage them to follow up their initial enthusiasm as club nights are full of fellowship and real pleasure.

We now do a swop-a-DVD scheme so do bring along anything you would like to pass on to someone else. We have even begun to bring spare cushions as the chairs in the Centre do get a bit hard at the end of a two hour film!

One member asked for a funny film in the near future as she is a bit tired of leaving the Centre on film nights with runny mascara!

So we are planning to show a "Pink Panther" after Christmas and we will work hard to choose something else with a really happy ending.

Looking forward to a good evening on October 11th as there will be a birthday cake and some goodies.



St. James' Church CHRISTMAS GIFTS and CRAFT FAIR

'Calling all Crafters'

At our annual Christmas Gifts and Craft sale, this year on Saturday 16th November, we plan to have a specific Craft stall to display and sell the great talent there is among members and friends of our congregation. We are hoping to have just 1 or 2 items from each person so that a wider variety of different crafts can be displayed.

If you have a 'crafty' talent such as knitting, painting, sewing, crocheting etc etc, and would like to join in this event please talk with either Margaret Weller (775150) or Christine Woodman (778078).

The Origins of Cowley

Shops and Shopping—Part Two

As if to reinforce the first part of our shopping chapter, whilst searching through archival material I came across a lovely old photograph dating back 1895. It shows the little shop situated at the junction of Temple Road and Crescent Road. It was called the Cowley Bakery Stores and was run by a Mrs Honor. It developed into a general store but many Cowley people will remember it as Temple Cowley School's tuck shop. Children from the school would dash across the road at the end of the day for sweets to sustain them on their way home. This little shop would easily be within the memory of Nan Davies who I quoted last month.

However, moving on from Victorian Cowley we now need to examine the growth of the area in the 1920s and 30s. So let's look at the Florence Park Estate built in the early 1930s. A comprehensive parade of shops was established along the wide avenue of Florence Park Road. It is still in action today with The Jolly Post Boys public house squarely in the middle. In her fine publication, *The Changing Face of Florence Park*, Sheila Tree describes the parade with its greengrocers, chemist, ladies' hairdresser, draper and haberdashers, a butcher and a general store. These were mainly family-run independent businesses which flourished for many decades. It must be remembered that it was a rare thing until several years after World War Two for homes to have a refrigerator so popping along to Mr Newbold for some nice chops for dinner or to Mr and Mrs Clark for your butter or cheese was essential especially in the heat of summer.

So it was in Temple Cowley in the Wilkins Road parade of shops, Cross Dairy moved on to the Sunnyside Estate in 1933. They delivered milk from Littlemore Road right up to the Lye Valley Estate. They also had an ice-cream van which toured the Cowley Streets and opened a small

café which was used by the factory workers at mid-day. Their little shop is still there having changed its personality several times. In the Wilkins Road stores there were a fruiterer and florist, a ladies outfitter, a grocers, a wool shop, a boot repairer, a hairdresser, a butchers, a newsagent, and a general store. This last business was run for 21 years by Joyce Titchell and her husband, Joyce, of course, being a well-known personality in Cowley.

Hollow Way had its shops too, the most notable ones being Shergolds and Hopkins. From humble beginnings, paying £1 a week rent for one unit, Stanley Shergold developed his hardware business from 1932 until by the 1950s he became chairman of a chain of fifty shops. He sold everything from ironmongery to deckchairs and what you could not get there you probably could at Hopkins. They began as grocers but in the mid-1920s were selling paint, wallpaper and soon every kind of tool, nails, screws etc. If you were stuck for any DIY materials Cowley folk would say "I'll bet you'll get it at Hopkins". Of course as today there were quite a few more shops in Hollow Way, but we must move on to the Oxford Road.

At the top (opposite St Luke's Church) stood the Cowley Workers' Social Club, but next to them was Beechey's. Many a new baby in Cowley was pushed about in one of their smart prams and many a small child had toys bought for them there. Now, the story goes that working at the factory meant that your shifts were not shopping friendly, so if you needed a new pair of boots Merediths (the next shop along) the shoe shop, would allow your wife to take home a small selection of suitable footwear (right foot only!) for you to try on. On selecting the correct one she would take back those not required, buy the pair and carry home the left boot to make the match. Next to Merediths was Silks, the grocers

then Dunford, the butcher. Further down was a chemist (still there) and various other businesses including Freefields, a lovely flower shop, Scrogg's dairy and between Havelock Road and Clive Road, a branch of Home and Colonial Stores. At the end of this parade was Alders, the newsagent, confectioner and tobacconist. They set up shop in 1924 and flourished until quite recently. Now the Q8 garage, on the corner of Edmund Road we find a premises which was set up as early as 1926. It had a hand operated petrol pump. Bates also sold bicycles in the 1930s and next door was situated the Cowley Music and Wireless Salon (very grand!).

Next we need to travel back up the hill and turn right into Between Towns Road (originally Cowley High Street). Here was a veritable metropolis of businesses up until the early 1960s. I have already recorded the site of Cowley Post Office, Gibbons Bakery and, at the Hockmore Street end, Bentley's store and hairdressers. So who else traded there?

Mr Osbourn had a fish and chip shop at number 4, next door to Edgingtons. This major store advertised themselves as fireplace specialists, but were also paint merchants, hardware, tools, and ironmongery providers. There were a couple of dry cleaners, Durhams, the greengrocers and fruiterers, and a large Co-operative store where most Cowley housewives shopped for meat, groceries and all kinds of dairy foods collecting their "divi" points as they did. Morris and Beecham were the local coal merchants and you could get your car serviced either at The Swan Garage or Credit Repairs.

We cannot leave Between Towns Road without mentioning a little confectioners at the top of St Omer Road run by Doris and Don Holton. And then in the mid-1950s change was afoot.

A Development Plan from the City Council stated the intention to "provide a business and shopping centre at Cowley to meet the increasing needs of the population to the south-

east of the city and in so doing to relieve some of the existing congestion of the old City". A Cowley Centre Committee was set up in 1951 composed of people from Estates, Highways, Finance and Planning Committees. Much debate about the size, cost and cultural change such a scheme might involve. It was highly ambitious including altering the road layout which had existed back into Medieval times. Huge amounts of demolition would be necessary including many of the little shops, homes and even community premises like Bedford House. By 1958 an architect's model went on show and the financial implications addressed. Work started on the roads and sewers in 1960 by which time demolition had begun. By 1965 everything was complete and Cowley Centre was opened.

I expect some of my readers will remember with affection The White Rabbit Tearoom and Restaurant and even the bowl-shaped fountain in the middle of The Square which very seldom had water in it and made a good kind of climbing experience for small children. By July 1972 Cowley Chronicle was reporting the "lines under the eyes" of the Centre to say nothing of the strength of the wind under the Hockmore Tower tunnel in the winter. Something had to be done, and was. At the end of the 70s plans were made to install a roof and update the whole complex. Templars Square was born.

Now, of course, we are able to shop in the big area over the road in The John Allen Centre and still changes are made week by week.

So we have reached the end of 2000 years of Cowley. There are many more stories to be told but we have seen it change from a series of small potteries situated along a Roman Road to a busy suburb of the City of Oxford. The story goes on, shaped by its businesses, shops, schools, churches and leisure facilities but most of all by its friendly "ordinary" people who can compete on the world stage when it comes to the production of motor cars. We should be proud to say "I live in Cowley". I know I am.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN OCTOBER

On 2nd October in 1187 the Muslim army of the legendary warrior, Saladin, captured Jerusalem from its Christian rulers. This sparked off the Crusades.

The world's first car assembly line went into operation on 7th October 1913. The Ford production line saw a new car built every three hours in its Michigan factory. William Morris went to the USA to see it and the rest is Cowley history.

In the year 451 on 8th October, the Church Council of Chalcedon opened. The object of the conference was to discuss what the church believed about who Jesus Christ really was.

437 years after she capsized and sank in the Solent Henry VIII's flagship, the Mary Rose, was gently lifted from the mud on 11th October 1982.

The Sydney Opera House was opened on 20th October 1973 by Her Majesty the Queen.

On 24th October 1901 Ann Edson Taylor climbed into a barrel padded with thick cushions. The barrel was sealed and pushed into the river just above Niagara Falls. She survived the fall to tell reporters that she had done it to make enough money to keep up with her mortgage payments!

The Baker Brothers

I was interested in Rosanne's reference to Gibbons bakery. There were two Mr Gibbons the baker and they were brothers. One had premises in Between Towns Road and one in Hertford Street in East Oxford. I went to school opposite the Hertford Street bakery and I remember Mr Gibbons showing us the bake-house. It had a solid fuel stove and he used a long handled wooden spatula to bring the hot loaves out of the oven. I did not know the word Hygiene or know about health and safety over 70 years ago but those were the thoughts in my head in that bakery.

Street delivered bread around East Oxford and my mother was a customer, it was very good bread. I remember clearly the first time our bread was delivered in a motorised van. I do not remember his horse and cart but I remember the astonishment of all of us when he

arrived in such state. He was the first of the door to door retailers to have a motor vehicle.

When Between Towns Road was moved, yes it was moved to the West, Gibbon's Bakery was demolished along with Mr Joe White, the plumber's premises. The other brother, from Hertford Street began to deliver in Cowley as well as East Oxford. When I began to make my own bread Mr Gibbons delivered a sack of bread flour and fresh yeast to me and I would bake bread for three days. I froze it and when there was a baker's strike I was very popular.

I believe the Hertford Street business is still going and still delivering. I remember Royston, who is either the son or son-in-law, who took over the business but I do not know who runs it now.

Una Dean

FLOWER OF THE MONTH – MYRTLE

Myrtle and its close relative, periwinkle, have many interesting and fanciful legends to commend them. The first of these is that myrtle is reputed to promote both love and immortality. It is not surprising, then, that a sprig of the flower is incorporated into the bouquet of every British royal bride (though I don't remember spotting one amongst Kate's pretty bouquet of lily of the valley, do you?) The delicate, tiny creamy white flowers have a delicious perfume so apart from their reputation they can enhance any bouquet.

One of the most enchanting legends is the tradition that when God, disappointed and upset, banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden he allowed them to take with them the seeds of three plants that grew there. One was wheat, the second was dates and the third was myrtle. Perhaps God was hoping that the property of myrtle to promote love and immortality was His hope for the human race.

The Greeks, who held great store by the properties of plants, believed that the nymphs who lived in myrtle bushes taught them, by way of Apollo's son Aristaeus, the useful arts of making cheese, building bee-hives and cultivating olives. Although those are fanciful stories they did find that using myrtle in the tanning of leather gave it a fine aromatic fragrance. They also used it as a black hair dye (the beautiful black winter berries give us a clue to this).

Myrtle's cousin, periwinkle, with its tough, shiny leaves was probably brought to Britain by the Romans. The family name for both plants is "Vinca" which comes from the Latin word vincio, to bind, and the long, tough stalks were used by the Romans to make ceremonial wreaths

sometimes associated with sacrificial ceremonies. Criminals in the Middle Ages were garlanded with periwinkle on their way to execution.



Myrtle retained its association with love, however. A thirteenth century saint, Albertus Magnus, a Dominican, who professed to be a botanist, scientist and theologian offered an interesting potion to promote devotion between married couples. (Any married couples reading this can take this potion with "a pinch of salt"). Old Albertus recommended that leaves of the myrtle be beaten together "with wormes of ye earth wrapped about it" until it formed a powder. This should then be taken at meal times. (I should think anyone as desperate as that for love should be pitied.) Albertus suggested that if the powder be thrown into the fire it induced a blue flame. I guess that's where most concoctions ended up!

However the plant does have healing properties and the drug vinblastine is made from the vinca from Madagascar. This drug is used in the cure for Hodgkin's disease and childhood leukaemia.

Myrtle is quite an easy plant to grow and is tough enough to withstand our cold winters despite the fact that it is a native of the Mediterranean countries. Cuttings can be taken from soft wood and placed in a pot of good compost to root. These should be well watered, kept warm, and have plenty of light. Be patient, though, as it takes about two years before your tiny bush is ready to flower. To my mind it is well worth the wait.

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Monday of month from 2.30pm.

21st October 2013 – Speaker: Anne Couldrick, Trustee of the Seesaw Charity
Cowley Parish Church Centre

Women's Group

1st and 3rd Monday of the Month from 7.30 – 9 pm

Speaker, 16th October: The Revd Skye Denno
Cowley Parish Church Centre

Women's Institute

Monthly Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of month from 2 – 4.30 pm

Cowley Parish Church Centre

Student Soup Supper

Upper Room, St Francis

2nd and 4th Thursday every month
6 -8 pm

Coffee Morning/Games

2nd Saturday of every month, 10 – 12 noon
St Francis Church

Please note Additional Dates throughout the year:

To help raise funds for essential repairs to St. James' Church a home-made cakes and puds stall is planned. These will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month to carry over into Wednesday and will be held in the Church Centre.

If you enjoy baking and would like to help by baking a cake 2 or 3 times a year on a rota basis Chris Woodman or Margaret Weller would be pleased to hear from you.

Film Club

Friday, 11th October 2013, commencing at 6.30 pm with coffee and cake

"A Song for Marion"

PG Certificate

Cowley Parish Church Centre

Cowley Local History Society

Tuesday, 15th October 2013 at 8 pm

Talk: The Abingdon Waterturnpike Murder
An Illustrated talk by Mark Davies

United Reform Church, Temple Road

St James Church Committee

Tuesday, 15th October 2013, at 7.30 pm

St James Church Centre

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 20th October 2013, at 12 noon

St Francis Church

All Souls Children's Fancy Dress Party

Friday, 25th October 2013, 5.30 – 7.30 pm

St Francis Church

Caribbean Evening

Friday, 8th November 2013, 7 – 12 midnight

St Francis Church

Tickets £12 in advance or £15 at the door

Christmas Gift and Craft Sale

Saturday, 16th November 2013

St James Church Centre

PCC Meeting

Tuesday, 19th November 2013, at 7.30 pm

St James Church Centre

Mothers' Union – Puddings and Quiz Evening

17th January 2014

Rosanne interviews Caroline and William Hartley

It is always a great pleasure to introduce my readers to one of our married couples in the parish. This only happens very occasionally but this month's interview is totally unique since William is, so far, the only person I have ever interviewed for *The Chronicle* twice. You see, as you know, I like to vary the age-groups of my subjects as much as possible and so when William's dad was the rector of Cowley I persuaded him to put a teenager's perspective on life here in the parish. Now I am getting his perspective as a (fairly) newly married man with a mortgage, a career ahead and lots of decorating to do.

My first question was, obviously, how was it that William, having spent at least 8 years calling Beauchamp Lane his home address has brought Caroline back to "home turf"? The answer is quite clear. Caroline has an important job at the John Radcliffe Hospital doing scientific research (more details later) and needed to live within easy reach of work. When the couple house-hunted in the area they found that a very nice flat in Cowley was within their price range whereas similar properties in Headington were not. They were still busy decorating and moving in to their flat when I spoke to them in September.

Both William and Caroline were born in the West Midlands, he in Coventry and she in Solihull. Caroline, though, moved to

Bristol when she was three and a half, her father's work in civil engineering requiring this. She was a happy little girl who loved school. She had a younger brother as a playmate and found life in her big primary school fully satisfying. She moved on to a girls comprehensive secondary school in Bath, then on to sixth form college. Her strongest subjects were maths and science so it is no surprise to learn that she took 'A' level exams in physics, chemistry, maths and further maths. Passing them all she went on to read maths at Warwick University. Right through her school and university years she shone in her chosen subjects but not at any sports, which she declares she really dislikes.

William, aged nearly ten, arrived in Cowley with his mum, dad and two sisters Lizzie and Catherine. He had had one or two unhappy experiences at school prior to this especially when he was very homesick at boarding school so the family's move from Tilehurst was good for him. He spent almost two years at Lawn Upton Middle School in Littlemore and then was lucky (or bright) enough to secure a place at Magdalen College School. He found life a bit strange at first as most of his contemporaries had come from preparatory schools but soon found life there full of interesting projects. With a real interest in playing music (he had already tackled the violin, trumpet and drums) he

took up the French horn. I sensed that he had some regrets that this too had to be dropped as the lessons clashed with academic studies and he was determined to concentrate on reaching good results in his 'A' levels. He did, though, enjoy his sports especially basketball, badminton and most of all sailing. Like Caroline his strongest subjects were the sciences and he took biology, chemistry and physics for his final exams. All that hard work paid off and William secured a place at Imperial College, London where he read biochemistry.

After graduating from Warwick University, Caroline set off for London too. This was to do a masters degree at University College. Her subject was biological modelling. Feeling I was now swimming in unfamiliar waters she explained this in simple terms. Her degree entailed mathematical modelling of biological problems such as how hormones change in pregnancy and the networking of neurons in the brain. She spent four years in London living in various parts of the City. She got to know it well and loves its whole culture. At the end of her four years she had achieved a doctorate in neuroscience.

Meanwhile William was studying at Imperial. He described to me his need to stay "on top of things" which meant working at his course late into the night. He lived in

Hall for part of his three years but also moved out to Hammersmith and Bethnal Green. He bought himself a motor-scooter and with his friend (nicknamed Mr Toad) would whizz around the City. He volunteered his services to help once a week at the Pimlico Connection and at that point thought that he was cut out for a teaching career. He did classroom practice at Westminster City School in maths, biology and chemistry. By 2007 his mum and dad had moved from Cowley to a parish in Hermitage, near Reading, and whilst William got his thoughts together he lived at home with them. He did a variety of jobs, in the meantime getting very involved with the life of a church in Newbury. He began a post-graduate teaching course at Russell Square in London but through prayer came to the decision that God was calling him to teach "from the Bible, not through science".

So how did this lovely young couple meet? Well, through attending St Paul's Church in Hammersmith in 2008. They joined one of the church's home groups. Theirs was full of "student" youngsters who, after discussion, prayer and worship, would all resort to the local pub. They met each other through mutual friends. Their first date, though, was thanks to the internet. Let me explain. Caroline was taking part in a fun-run in aid of cancer research in Regent's park and, aiming to get sponsors, gave her contact number on Facebook. William spotted it and invited

her to meet for a drink. The date (they both remembered) was May Bank Holiday 2009. Their second date, after a home group evening resulted in a long, long walk (4 hours) and lots of talk, until they found they had left the pretty London riverside behind and were strolling through one of the grottier areas of the City – never a good idea!

Just a year later, William proposed having set about saving for the nicest ring he could afford and just over a year after that they were married. The ceremony took place at St Paul's, Hammersmith, the church where they had first met, amongst all their friends.

William, before their marriage had been living in Surrey, trying different churches, and visiting Holy Trinity, Brompton Square. He was working for Mencap during the week and exploring theology in depth at the School of Theology on Saturdays. Caroline was still studying, of course, so their Saturday evenings spent together became very special for them. After their honeymoon in Italy they returned to London, lived in Shepherd's Bush and continued to follow their busy lives. They even found time to lead a church home-group once a week.

Caroline, after gaining her PhD was offered a job through Oxford University to do scientific research at The John Radcliffe. She explained that her current project involves investigation into how pre-term or full-term babies respond to

medically required pain. She has been doing this research since last November and is one of a team of five neuroscientists tackling this important work.

William is now working in administration and clinical support in adult speech and therapy in the community. He is based at East Oxford Health Centre three days a week and at The Horton hospital in Banbury for two days a week. He works with patients affected by Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and strokes. He supports therapists who visit care homes where people have problems with swallowing and choking.

This post however is a means to support his other project, namely his time spent studying for a degree in theology. On Tuesday evenings William finishes work early and heads off to St Millitus College in Earl's Court in London. There he is working towards his degree with assignments to write in between. With wry smiles, both he and Caroline told me that there is precious little time spent together especially as Caroline's research is far from a 9 to 5 job. She often goes in at weekends. That, of course, means time spent together is precious.

It is little wonder that the decorating in their new flat is taking time and then there are all the boxes to unpack! However, they do enjoy their worship at St James and coffee and chat after church. It is lovely to welcome them into our church family and we hope

they will be with us for a good few years to come.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

C: Quite quiet and shy. I liked reading but did not like Barbie dolls.

W: Curious. I liked to go out and explore. Oh and I was mischievous too.

Have you any memories of childhood you would like to share?

C: One of my earliest memories is playing with one of those old-fashioned 'phones with a dial. When I was about four or five I would like to hide in the aisles of shops. One day I got lost, finished up in tears and found that that little game did not work.

W: When we moved to Tilehurst I was about three. I went missing and mum and dad searched everywhere for me. They finally found me in the kitchen cabinet where I had been for hours.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

C: No. My parents are not Christians. I started to go to church with a group of friends at university. That's where it started.

W: I grew up in a Christian family but I used to hide under the bed to avoid going to church. At secondary school I went to communion. While I was doing religious studies for GCSE I started to question

things. I went to a Soul Survivor Conference. The experience helped me find a new relationship with Jesus.

Is there anyone who has had a strong influence in your life?

C: The three friends who took me to church with them.

W: I had a friend at uni. When we signed up on Freshers Week for Christian Union he left a note on my door to tell me about a cell (prayer) group. We met to pray together and he would challenge me about my faith.

Do you have a treasured possession?

C: I have a teddy bear which was given to me by my parents when I was born.

W: Mine is either my crucifix which I have had since forever or a Bible which I was given by my godparents when I was baptised.

What is your opinion of modern society?

C: I guess things are advancing too fast for most people to keep up but generally I am optimistic about the future.

W: Modern society changes anyway. I am reading a book by Tom Wright in which he talks about a modern society which does not have all the answers. So, he says, we are moving into a post-modern society now. We are living in interesting times where people are wary of authority and everyone has their own ideas of truth.

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

C: Probably now

W: I would agree

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

C: With friends out for a meal, reading lots of books depending on my mood. I like "good" fiction and delving into William's theology books. I also enjoy a film with a good romantic story.

W: I enjoy reading theology for my course. I am studying Greek. I also read old fiction – I've just been given a collection of H G Wells. I sometimes like to cycle quite long distances in the countryside and I play guitar and write songs.

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

C: I would sort out childhood poverty.

W: The most obvious thing would be to redistribute wealth throughout the world.

What plans do you have for the future?

C: We would like to have children and we do want to stay living in the UK.

W: The same as Caroline. The rest depends on our jobs in the future. We would like to be fully involved in our local church, the rest we will leave in God's hands.

RECIPES

Autumn is a good time to prepare pickles and chutneys to enjoy at Christmastime with cold meats or crusty bread and cheese. Here are a couple of tried-and-true recipes.



Apple and tomato chutney

2lbs cooking apples

¾ lb onions

Clove of garlic

2 lbs tomatoes

8 oz sultanas

12 oz sugar

½ oz mustard seed

½ oz curry powder

½ level teaspoon cayenne pepper

a little salt

1 ½ pints malt vinegar

Peel and core apples and stew them in a little water till soft and pulpy

Chop the onions and garlic and tomatoes

Add to apples together with sultanas

Mix in the sugar

Tie mustard seeds in a small muslin bag

Put this with all the other spices and vinegar into the fruit mixture

Cook gently for about 2 hours (Everything should be soft and spicy)

Remove muslin bag. Pot in sterilised pots and cover.

This chutney matures beautifully but can be used after about 4 weeks.

Marrow Chutney

3 lbs marrow, peeled and chopped

½ lb sultanas

2 tablespoons salt

12 peppercorns

½ lb onions or shallots, peeled and chopped

small piece of root ginger

½ lb cooking apples

4 oz sugar

1 ¼ pints malt vinegar

Put chopped marrow in bowl, sprinkle with salt and leave for 12 hours. Drain and rinse thoroughly

Put marrow, apples, onions and sultanas in large saucepan.

Tie peppercorns in a muslin bag, add to fruit and veg.

Bruise the root ginger, then add this plus the sugar and vinegar to the saucepan

Bring slowly to the boil and simmer gently till everything is pulpy and spicy

Remove piece of ginger and muslin bag

Pot in sterilised pots and cover

To make this chutney even spicier a little all-spice and/or cinnamon may be added

Store for about 4 weeks before serving

GOD IN MY LIFE

I was born into a loving Church of England family. My father had died before I was born which meant that my mother had the responsibility of caring for myself and my older brothers and sisters, therefore she and I were very close, she was a great influence in my life. I am what is often called a cradle Christian. I went to a church school, which meant that every day we had a full school assembly with prayers, Bible readings and hymns. After assembly the first lesson was always 'Religious Instruction' often conducted by the Vicar or Curate. On Saint Days and other special occasions we were taken to church, as it was High Church (almost Roman Catholic) – we celebrated lots of Saints.

Every Sunday I was taken to church in the morning. In the afternoon it was back for Sunday School. I often went with my mother to Evensong. My mother and I always said prayers before I went to bed. I am not sure how much I understood about God or the Holy Trinity at that time. I just remember enjoying my scripture lessons at school and Sunday School. Also the time I spent in church which was quite considerable as my mother was very active in many aspects of church life. Throughout my teenage years I continued to go regularly to church and eventually became a Sunday School teacher. It was at this time I think I really began to understand. I really loved being able to talk about Jesus, his disciples and the stories and parables from the New Testament. As I have grown older I know that God was always there but as a child it took some understanding.

I do not know at what point I became aware of God being in my life. I do remember after my first child was born, I went to church for the thanksgiving after childbirth (Churching of Women) after the regular set service. The vicar said some prayers and as he laid his hands upon me, he said, 'Your daughter is a wonderful gift from God, always remember that'. I felt as though an electric shock had passed through me. I burst into tears and was so overwhelmed by the experience that it was some time before I was able to move. I think that it was my first conscious experience of receiving the Holy Spirit. I now have the same sensation after Holy Communion. I just want to sit in silence and absorb that wonderful feeling. And I know that as always He is right there beside me.

As I have grown older my relationship with God has changed. Reading my bible more, through Alpha Courses and Home Group I understand much more. I feel much closer to him and I have learned that his love for me is unconditional, that He is always there as a confidant, friend, guide and listener. I feel the need for him more than I ever have and as time goes by my relationship with Him is growing stronger.

The last thing every night I turn off all the lights, unplug the telephone and in complete silence He and I spend my prayer time. I think this is the most inspirational and important part of my day. I know that I will have to wait for many of my prayers to be answered, but I have no doubt at all in my mind that if I am patient they will be.

May Morgan

'LET'S LIGHT UP CHRISTMAS'
 Cowley festival of Christmas trees 2013
 has grown from a weekend to a 10 day event!
 6-15 December in St James Church

We want to share our plans with you: here's the proposed programme:

Wednesday 4 to -Friday 6 December: set up

Friday 6 December 19:00 - reception for all participants

Saturday 7, 14 10:00-18:00 open

Sunday 8, 15 14:00-17:00 open

Monday 9 – Friday 13 14:00-16:00 open

*and by arrangement at other times for groups
 live music and refreshments
 quiz trail from Templars' Square*

Saturday 7 (tbc) 19:00 fundraising concert

Saturday 14 10:00-14:00 family arts fun day

Sunday 15 17:30 festival carol service



We hope most trees will remain in church or the Parish Centre until the new year

What can you do to help at this stage? We're looking for more schools/churches/groups/ families/ businesses to be involved and turn this into a truly community festival – please ask for a letter and information leaflet for yourself or to hand on to anyone who may like to be involved.

Proceeds will again be shared between ROSY and SeeSaw, two small Oxfordshire charities supporting children in difficult circumstances, with which we established such a positive relationship last year.

Much nearer the time, you will of course be asked if you can help by delivering invitation cards (hopefully with the next Cowslip), setting up, stewarding, providing some seasonal refreshments – it will again be a big team effort! Our next planning meeting is on Monday 7 October, 10:00 am in the Ranklin Room. You would be welcome to join us!

Lesley Williams
 01865 779 562
 07982 439 828
ctf@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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Letter from Boston

When I left St James Parish for Boston, USA, on a rather chilly Sunday at the end of August, I promised to stay in touch and involved with the parish by writing a note now and then about my life in the United States. The Revd Howard Thornton suggested that I might turn it into a series of Letters from America, becoming, so to speak, an Alistair Cooke, albeit with a Swiss accent. While I wouldn't dare to compare myself to this outstanding journalist and reporter, it is a task that I gladly will take on.

After two weeks of settling back into life here in Boston, Massachusetts and at University, our semester has started again with the annual Opening Convocation Address by the Dean of the School and a selected professor. Opening Convocation Addresses, which have a long tradition, are basically philosophical pep talks for scholars and students about to start their new academic year. These Opening Convocations are normally rather grand events, at which the Professors of the School turn out in a procession in their beautiful and colourful academic robes and gowns.

This year, one of my favourite professors delivered the opening address, sharing her thoughts about the need for devotion in our daily tasks and work. Devotion, she said, is about cultivating reverence, and, using an example from Virginia Woolf's character Lily Briscoe in *To the Lighthouse*, she added that devotion can take as many shapes as love. For love, so Lily Briscoe says in *To the Lighthouse*, love has a thousand shapes.

Devotion certainly drove Alexander Crummell, whose ordination we remember this week in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, and made him overcome all the obstacles put into

his way. Alexander Crummell was the first African American to be ordained a Deacon at St Paul's Cathedral in Boston (where I am doing my placement this year) to the day 171 years ago. He was ordained a priest in New York two years later. But being refused admittance to a meeting of priests in the Diocese of Massachusetts, he emigrated to Liberia where he worked towards building up a church among freed slaves who had emigrated from the United States from the Civil War. Later, despite the injustice and discrimination he had suffered, he returned to the United States and founded what today is known as the Union of Black Episcopalians.

Devotion can take as many shapes as love. I was reminded of these words by another event that marked this week, which is the start of the new Football Season (NFL 2013 Season). The NFL 2013 Season kicked off last Thursday with the Super Bowl XLVII champions Baltimore Ravens playing in the annual kick off game. And for the next few months, I know, it will be hard to get any viewing time on the communal TV in our graduate student dorm.

Now, I have to confess that I know very little about American Football. In fact, I know so little that until I moved to Boston, I had assumed that it was the same as Rugby, only to meet utter disbelief and hysteric giggling among my American colleagues when I asked innocently whether there existed any difference between the two sports. 'What you have to understand', a friend kindly enlightened me, 'is that Football is a national religion in the United States. It is holy.' And, soon enough, I learned that if Football is the national religion, then the Superbowl, its culmination (which this season

will take place on Sunday 2 February 2014) is the most anticipated of all national Feast Days, second to none but perhaps Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I think every nation has a similar dedication to at least one or perhaps more sports – I think of our devotion in the United Kingdom to tennis, and the thousands of fans making their annual pilgrimage to the Holy Ground that is Wimbledon. Or think of the football matches (what Americans call ‘Soccer’ – you can imagine my confusion!), or horse races. But while some may find it wrong and sacrilegious to call this ‘devotion’ or compare the dedication to these national sports to religious reverence, I wonder whether it does to some degree not serve a similar purpose – to serve as a means of transcending our own individual humanity and our interpersonal differences, to serve as a bridge to the other, and to serve as a link within our community, bringing together an entire nation.

Here in the United States, people host Superbowl parties to which they invite neighbours, friends and family, like they do for Thanksgiving and Christmas. It seems to a foreign observer like me that it is a topic everyone has an opinion about, no matter their background, no matter their walks of life. It is a part of our shared cultural experience, a part of our shared humanity. And our devotion, be it for Rugby or Football, or for a specific cause or Religious Studies, helps us tap into that shared humanity, to overcome our differences. For a nation divided in the past weeks over whether or not the United States should take military action in Syria, and a crucial Congressional vote about that looming on the horizon, this certainly is something worth remembering in the weeks ahead.

Anne Geniets

Senior Citizens

A Senior Citizen is someone who was around before the pill and the population explosion. They were here before television, penicillin, antibiotics and microwave ovens, frozen food, radar and credit cards.

Time-sharing meant togetherness – not a holiday apartment, hardware was hardware and software wasn’t a word. Before men had long hair and earrings, and being stoned meant having rocks thrown at you.

Senior Citizens were before yoghurt, the 40 hour week, and the minimum wage. They got married before they lived together – how quaint can one be? Closets were for clothes – not for coming out of, gay meant merry, and aids were for assisting.

Senior Citizens were before pizza, McDonalds, instant coffee and decaffeinated anything. They thought that fast food was what you ate during Lent. They were before FM radio, compact discs, word processors, and the post punk period. Senior Citizens remember the days when cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was for mowing and pot was something you cooked in. If you asked Senior Citizens to explain DSW, CIA, UFO, ET, MOW, Ms and IUD, they’d say it was alphabet soup.

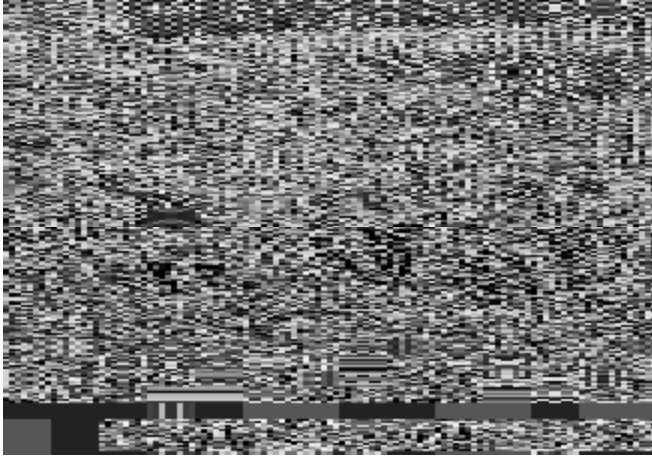
We must congratulate today’s Senior Citizens. They are indeed a hardy bunch when you consider how the world has changed and the adjustments they’ve had to make.

GOD BLESS ALL SENIOR CITIZENS

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extract from The Cowley Chronicle, February (can you guess the year?)

“Lights, but not two lanes – yet”



Two of Cowley's worst road junctions are to have traffic lights in a few weeks' time. The daily snarl-up of cars turning into and out of Between Towns Road, in competition with a steady stream of vehicles of all kinds passing straight up and down the Oxford Road, will at last be disciplined into a "Stop, wait, go" system, when lights are installed at the "Original Swan" junction.

Linked with these lights will be a further set on the junction between Garsington Road and Hollow Way. Both junctions are crucial to people working at Morris, and are especially liable to congestion at the rush hours when hundreds are

struggling to get to and from work as quickly as possible.

Many must feel that the police and traffic wardens who have been responsible for manning the junctions, deserve medals for gallantry.

Meanwhile work on the conversion of the Oxford Road to a dual carriageway, which the "Cowley Chronicle" of November 1967, stated it was hoped to begin in 1970, has been further delayed. A spokesman for the City Engineer's Department said that negotiations for purchase of properties affected by the new road plan were still continuing, and that it was unlikely that the work could begin before 1972. The dual carriageway will run between the junctions of Glanville Road and Hollow Way, and the scheme includes lay-bys for the shops on the Oxford Road below the police station.

Temple Cowley Congregational Church, it is understood, will not be affected, but St Luke's and the Nuffield Press as well as houses further down, will lose part of their frontages. The entire reconstruction of the Oxford Road should take about 18 months from starting date to completion."



DID YOU KNOW

When you carry "the Bible", Satan has a headache, when you open it, he collapses, when he sees you reading it, he loses his strength, and when you stand on the word of God, Satan can't hurt you!

May Morgan

Notes from the Shed

I am planting bulbs this month, daffodils in particular. They are one of my favourite flowers, heralding spring. I always think that this year I must take photos of where they are, so when I put in new bulbs, I won't be slicing through ones already in that spot. Somehow, tulips seem to pop up year after year in our garden but the daffs disappear or grow blind. It is tricky to find a place, however, among the plants giving their late summer best but needs must. Back in my home village in Staffordshire, the churchyard is full of the native daffodil, short and pale but a marvellous show. My Dad remembered, when he was a boy, the wild daffodils growing under the hedgerows in the fields around, but now they are restricted to the churchyard and the adjacent roadside.

Talking of tulips, this year I had a really great show by our back door of a large blue pot planted with two varieties of differing pink tulips. I am not disturbing the pot and hope it will perform again.

Another bulb that disappears is the allium. I am planting more of these and I hope they will survive to give us more than one year of blue lollipops. I think I am probably not planting them deeply enough.

I have made a start on tidying the shed. I just didn't realise how many empty compost bags I had collected. They were always useful to transport the garden waste to the tip but now I have a brown bin and how do we dispose of them? I find that the plastic, used heavily on farms, to wrap hay and silage, has to be collected and recycled. I have not found how to recycle horticultural compost bags. I do not believe that the supermarkets would take kindly to me shoving in dirty compost bags in their plastic bags recycling bins! So, into the landfill bin they go.

My seed order has gone in. I am looking forward to next year and growing for the Plant Sale. I hope that many others are doing the same and have the date of Saturday May 17th in the diary.

Joan Coleman



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Cowley Slimming World
St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane

Monday nights 5pm and 7pm Sessions

Call Rachel on 749852 or 07764844994

Ride and Stride 2013

Once again I would like to thank the St/Riders, welcomers and sponsors for supporting this annual event. Thirty-three St/Riders visited the Parish on what was a cloudy and dark day but despite the weather, the St/Riders were full of enthusiasm and eager to share their planned routes with us.

One St/Rider from St Mary's Headington told me that she was doing the Headington/Cowley/Iffley churches by bike with her son in the morning, nipping home at lunchtime to have some lunch, catching the bus into the City alone and spending the afternoon striding around the City churches.

Another couple had parked their car at Summertown early in the morning and had planned to be at St James late afternoon after getting their sponsor form signed at a number of churches on the way.

The only problem was that by the time they got to Beauchamp Lane, the husband could not face the hill so she left him at the bottom of the lane and came up to get their form signed. She had promised him on her return that they would have some supper and a drink before making their way back to Summertown - and they say women are the weaker sex!

The St/Riders will be collecting their sponsor money over the next couple of weeks, so if you haven't yet sponsored them and would like to, you can still be added as a sponsor.

As soon as the money has been handed in and I know how much we have raised, I will let everyone know; hopefully this will be in the November Chronicle.

June Smith

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.



Do not be afraid

**All Souls
Children's Fancy
Dress Party**

**Come and join the fun
Friday 25th of October,
5:30-7:30pm**

@ St Francis Church

*This includes games, pool tables, giant
Jenga, giant connect 4, crafts, Hot soup
& hot dogs, face painting and more!!
call Skye 434260 or Lyn 773337*

*Arrive on the day
or you can book tickets in advance
(£1.50 per child, under 2's are free)*

SMALL BEGINNINGS IN MYANMAR

If you watch Channel 4 news you may have seen over the summer their horrific reports of 'people trafficking' in Myanmar. We learnt of men, young and old, from the marginalised tribal groups, who were tricked with promises of jobs in Malaysia that never materialised. Instead the traffickers' boats took them to remote islands off the coast of Thailand where they were held hostage in open air camps until their families paid huge ransoms. As Myanmar emerges from years of military dictatorship there are many minority tribal groups that are suffering from lack of employment, food and freedom and are easily exploited.

During 2012 Faith2Share got to know a young church leader from the Chin tribe in Myanmar. To protect him I will not use his true name but let's call him Sung Tai. As well as leading a small church near Yangon (the new name for the capital city Rangoon) and teaching in a small Bible College, Sung Tai regularly visits the tribal areas in the west of his country to share the gospel there. After one of these trips he wrote to me to tell me that families in three of the villages he visited could no longer feed all their children so they were 'giving away' their youngest children to become Buddhist monks just so they would be fed. Often they would never see these children again. Sung Tai was determined to do something better for these families. He wrote to tell me he was starting a home for children in Yangon where families could send their children but also have them back home regularly. In the home the children will be cared for, fed, educated and welcomed by the local church. The fact that he had no money did not stop Sung Tai! He built a small room on the side of his house, bought three sleeping mats, three plates, three mugs, and welcomed his first three children. I met Sung Tai in June just after the children arrived. He said, "It isn't easy looking after three strange children, but with God's help we will survive." You can see the children in this picture he gave me.

Faith2Share is now working with a group of four Myanmar mission leaders like Sung Tai to help them establish projects, like this small home for children, which will serve the most vulnerable people in the country. We will also give them a grant and try to help them secure funding for the work in the future.

Mark Oxbrow
Faith2Share

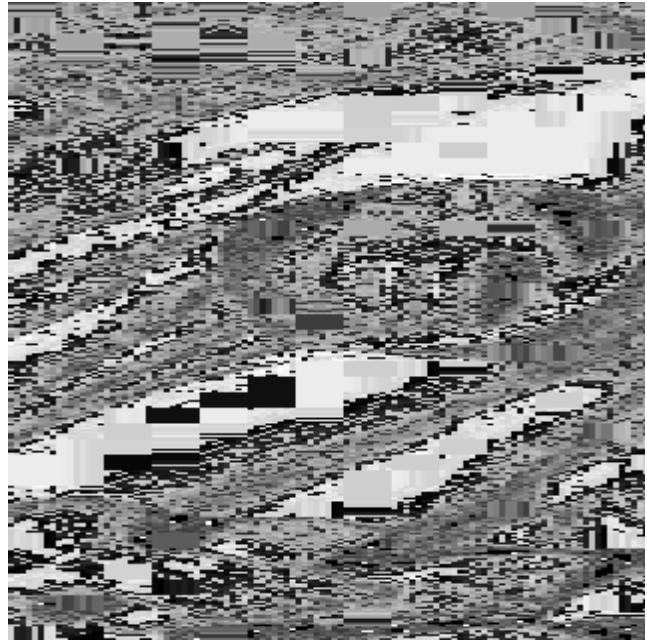


BOOK OF THE MONTH

Christ in the Wilderness by Stephen Cottrell
(published by SPCK)

If you enjoy reflecting on unusual pictures and seeing familiar stories from a new perspective then this is the book for you. The artist Stanley Spencer lived not far from Cowley, in the village of Cookham, just south of High Wycombe. Many of his pictures feature local landmarks and also draw on his experience of serving in the First World War as a stretcher bearer and then as an infantryman with the Berkshire Rifles. His pictures also reflect his Christian faith. At one stage he planned a series of 40 paintings of Jesus in the wilderness which he hoped would find a permanent home in Cookham parish church. Although he made sketches for all 40 only eight were ever completed and sadly these are now in a collection in Perth, Australia – a long way to go to see them. But they are well worth looking at because they give us many new insights into Jesus' time in the wilderness and how God speaks to us out of this experience.

Whilst Stephen Cottrell, now bishop of Chelmsford, was bishop of Reading, in our own diocese, his responsibilities included the parish of Cookham and he began to take a great interest in the work of Stanley Spencer. This book is the result of his reflection, over many years, on just five of Spencer's paintings. Each short chapter can be read as a meditation.



Bishop Stephen encourages us to spend some time looking at the picture ourselves first before we read his words – allowing the picture to speak to us. What does the expression on Jesus' face tell us? Why do His hands mirror the shape of the fox? etc. I recently used one of these pictures on a prison visit which led to some interesting discussions.

If you would like to join a group discussing this book then you would be welcome at the Thursday night Home Group which meets at 13 Annesley Rd. We will begin this series of studies on 9 October. (Call 01865 461953 for details.)

Mark Oxbrow

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Rosanne Butler, Sally Hemsworth, May Morgan, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the June edition:

Wednesday 24 October 2013

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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SAINTS OF THE MONTH

This month our saintly slot is something of a double act because St Simon and Saint Jude are almost always coupled together especially so on their saint day, 28th October.

St Simon (who is not Simon Peter) featured quite strongly at the time of Pentecost when he was called either the Canaanite or the Zealot. The latter title was probably because he belonged to a strict Jewish sect. After Pentecost, like several other apostles, Simon seems to have slipped from prominence but tradition has it that he joined up with Jude after having taken the gospel into Egypt.

Jude had been preaching in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) and together the two apostles took the message to Persia. Jude is identified as the brother of James “one of the brethren of the Lord”. Whether this literally means one of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s younger sons or just the brotherhood of saints is not clear. The gospel was not a simple message to preach in

such alien parts of the Eastern world and the apostles were viewed with much suspicion. Even in those places which had embraced the Christian faith Jude received a hard time, probably because his name resembled that of Judas, Jesus’ betrayer. He was rejected very often and thus became the patron saint of lost causes.

Inevitably the two saints were martyred. It happened in Persia at a place called Siani. They were hacked to death with a weapon called a falchion by heathen priests. In some English churches St Simon is depicted with this ghastly weapon. There is also a story that Jude was clubbed to death but there is no evidence of this.

These two brave saints, probably cousins, and probably cousins of Zebedee, were buried in Persia but in either the 7th or 8th century their bodies were taken to Rome and entombed in the Basilica of St Peter.



A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

~ ~ ~

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall – the police are looking into it.

St James Churchyard

Since 2012 a great deal of help has been given by the Oxfordshire Family History Society in recording the Monumental Inscriptions at St James Churchyard. Particular help was given by the following:

Alan Simpson
David Ludlow
Judith Wildsmith
Malcolm Graham
Derek Powles
Sheila Tree

We would like to thank them very much for all the hard work they have put in. They were always very helpful and pleasant, and they allowed us to make what we felt was a useful contribution to the exercise owing to their great patience. This has resulted in a very good record of our churchyard for the national as well as our church records.

A special thank you to Sheila Tree for all her hard work in collating the information collected.

There will be a CD available in the future and details will be put in the Cowley Chronicle when this is available.



No hair cream thank you – just sprinkle a few ashes on

THE CARPENTER MAN

Love came softly and taught me how to be,
And his message was simple and clear,
For perfection lay in his love for me,
Bringing hope in the darkness of fear,
And my soul needs the peace that he breathes,
And my heart begs the warmth of his love,
For their giving is helpless and so free,
From the heart of the Carpenter Man

Let me follow wherever he may lead,
For this child loves the glow of his light
And his whisper is all I ever need,
With a promise that shines through my night.
If my pride makes me frown at his smile,
Though I turn from the things asked of me,
Through His mercy the wound of love will plead,
In the hands of the Carpenter Man.

He was lonely, His sorrow made Him cry.
He felt pain and the loss of a friend
And frustrated when his people wouldn't try,
Yet, He carried my faults till the end
When I call He is there at my side,
Bringing calm to the storm in my mind,
For the pure light of love will never die
In the eyes of the Carpenter Man

*Written by a school girl at
Notre Dame School n Leeds*

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met on the 17th September 2013, when the following matters were discussed:

The Parish is now a registered Charity. All our documents now have to include our charity number and existing documents will be changed to include this information.

The repair work at St James Church is now complete, and the PCC was grateful to all those who made donations towards the cost.

Work is required to one of the bells and the bell tower at St James, and a Faculty is being applied for. Money is available for this work due to a very generous donation and additional fund raising.

A Legacy document was approved, and this will be available in the churches later this year.

Work is continuing on the Old School, and the demolition of the old had been arranged – in fact this work has now been done.

The work needed at St Francis was discussed. Electrical work has been completed, but the Church Committee would like to decorate the outside. Estimates are being obtained so that the necessary permission for this work can be obtained.

Again in relation to St Francis, development of an improved area for the Community Food Bank and the Scouts, with possible space for community use, is under discussion.

Repair work to the gravel drive at the St James Church Centre has been undertaken, and the question of improved the metal barriers around the car parking areas is being pursued.

Children taking communion before confirmation was discussed following the open meeting earlier this year. The PCC agreed to begin the process of letting parents know that children who have received preparation would be welcome to receive communion at services, and the Church Committees are being asked to discuss this.

A convenor for the Women's World Day of Prayer and an area representative for the Oxfordshire Historical Churches are required. Please let PCC members or the Parish Office know if you are interested.

The next meeting of the PCC will be held on 19th November 2013.

Sally Hemsworth



I'll take any Soul-destroying job

REPORTS FROM ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

On Thursday 26th September we went to St Francis Church. I was partners with Lara and we were in a group with a man called Joel. First he told us about the harvest of the ocean. He showed us how to make a mini boat and gave paper to my teacher for us to make one in the classroom. I can't wait to make one.

Next we talked about grain and how you make bread out of it. He gave four children a piece of bread for us to take little pieces from to eat. He asked us to think about Jesus on the cross while we were eating it.

After a while we changed stations and I was with a lady who told us about wool. She handed out some sheep's wool for us to hold and gave us a piece of string to put on a wooden tree.

Before long we were talking about the harvest of the fruit and vegetables and she gave me a banana card. Then she asked how do vegetables grow? Lewis said the sun, then the lady asked what does the sun give them? I answered vitamins and she said yes but what else? After the harvest of fruit and vegetables we came back as one big group.

I enjoyed the trip and learning about harvest.

By Leah Jeacock

Yesterday we went to St Francis Church to learn about harvest. When we first got there we had to wait for the previous class to finish. In a while they were finished so we started. First we had to learn about the harvest of the flock which taught us about humility. We got to feel real sheep's fur, it was a bit oily!

After we heard a bell ring that meant we had to move on. The next thing was about patience. Patience was about harvest of the garden. We spoke about when we grow seeds and she showed us some seeds and they were so tiny that I thought in my head, "that tiny seed grows into such a big flower!" Just then the bell rang again so we had to go on to learn about harvest of the ocean.

Harvest of the ocean was about peace. The man asked us if we would like to be a fisher man or woman.

We learnt a lot at the church.

Mursal Latifi

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: "You stay here; I'll go on a head".

SEASON OF MISTS

As summer slips away into autumn some of us rather dread the onset of winter with its cold weather. Yet in this country we do normally have this interim period, "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness", as the poet described it. This year has been more of a traditional September with some rain and some warm sunny days. In some countries the transition from summer to winter is quite sharp and sudden. Thankfully in this country the process is usually more gentle, and nature has its own timetable, which has not been spoilt by the extremities of global warming. Long may it be so!

When I think of autumn I always think of Michaelmas Daisies. Their cheerful bright blue colour brings a bit of life back into gardens that are looking a bit tired after the long season. Of course, not so long ago Michaelmas was a major festival in our church's calendar, celebrated all over the country. Nowadays, it seems to be largely forgotten, although the first term in

Oxford University's Calendar is still referred to as Michaelmas Term. Many Oxford people think of St Giles Fair as being the marker for the end of summer. And for the youngsters it is back to school time. As regards fruitfulness we seem to have had our fair share of it this year. The apple harvest looks like being the best for some time, and other fruits are looking good too. Apparently our old English cobnuts are in profusion this year along with hazelnuts and sweet chestnuts. So we have much to be thankful for. Years ago country people used to make the very best of this fruitfulness with homemade jams and wines to supplement their meagre diets. Nowadays it is a case of straight down to the nearest supermarket, although the number of people trying to grow their own vegetables and fruits in the garden on allotments is on the increase. We certainly need to value what nature gives us.

John Shreeve

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SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Sung Eucharist
Every 2nd & 4th Sunday	Church at the Centre
Every third Sunday	Sunday Lunch

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am	Parish Eucharist
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MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Monday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St James
	10.00-11.30am	Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis
	2.30pm	Parish Mothers' Union— St James (3rd Monday)
Tuesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St Francis
	10.00am	Seashells Toddler Group— St James
	12.00pm	Eucharist—St James
	12.30pm	Tuesday Lunch Club— St James
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St James
	7.30pm (alt wks)	Women's Group—St James
Thursday	8.30am	Morning Prayer—St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James
Saturday	10.00am-12pm	Coffee Morning, St Francis (2nd Saturday)

HOME GROUPS

Leader	Time/Venue
Skye Denno	1st Monday of month, 7.30pm at Skye's home
Connie Uren	Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Friends of St Francis (John Shreeve/ Skye Denno)	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm St Francis Church
Mark Oxbrow	Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm Mark's home
Rosanne Butler	Alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00am St James Church Centre, Ranklin Room
Helen Beetham	Alternate Friday mornings at 10am

The Parish Office in St James Church
Centre is open:

Tuesday, 2—5pm
Wednesday, 10—1pm
Friday, 9—2pm

The Parish Office is currently staffed by
volunteers and members of the ministry
team, and is open most office hours.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680
Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Out of hours tel: 07501 908378
Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Team Rector:

Revd Howard Thornton
Howard has Friday as his day off

Team Vicar:

Revd Skye Denno
Tel: 01865 434160 Mobile: 07720 768684
Email: skye@cowleyteamministry.co.uk
Skye has Friday as her day off.

Associate Priest

Revd Richard Chand
01865 701948
Email: richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Non-stipendiary Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow
01865 461953
Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Amanda Bloor
Tel: 01865 208221

Revd Gordon Hickson
Tel: 07713 688079

Revd Tony Beetham
Tel: 01865 770923
Email: tonybeetham1@supanet.com

Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602
Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens
Margaret Martin Tel: 718532
John Shreeve Tel: 717987

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516
St Francis Church/St James Church:
through Parish Office

Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Rosanne Butler Tel: 453257
Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens,
May Morgan
Articles to be emailed to:
chronicle@cowleyteamministry.co.uk