

Summertime

Summertime was composed by George Gershwin for the 1935 opera *Porgy and Bess*. It was Gershwin's attempt to write a spiritual. The song evokes a gentler pace of life.

Summertime,
And the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin'
And the cotton is high...

The words and music take me back to my childhood. In Canada, the summer holidays take in the entire months of July and August. When I was ten the holidays seemed a never-ending time of freedom and pleasure in the simplest things. In the summertime worry and stress were meaningless and whatever problems came along might be simply solved through a chat with my nana or my mum.

I've been quietly singing the words from Gershwin's *Summertime* as I look forward to my summer hols. This idealised notion of summer is important as I contemplate the reality of parish life, in which there is just too much to do!

When faced with too much to do there are three possible choices:

1. Carry on doing too much,
2. Choose not to do some things, or
3. Get help.

Help is an important part of Christian faith. Jesus called each of us to be a part of the body. Each part of the body is helpful to the rest.

Imagine your body without a foot, a right hand, a stomach, or a pancreas. Whenever Jesus sent out people out to do something he always sent two or more, except after the Last Supper, when he sent Judas Iscariot.

Ecclesiastes chapter 4 says that two are better than one, "because if one falls, the other will life up his brother; but watch out if you fall and you are alone because you won't have another to help you."

In the parish right now, we face unparalleled opportunities for growth if we work together. If we pray and think and talk and dream we can develop a vision or a picture of God's mission plans for Cowley. These might include working with the schools of St James, St Francis and St Christopher's; marriage preparation classes; supporting and encouraging mothers' and toddlers' groups; Junior Church; work with students at Oxford Brookes; the Alpha Course; and/or developing and presenting a new and exciting all-age worship service. We need to operate, not under our own timetable, but in God's time.

This year members of the PCC will work together to develop a Parish Vision and a five year plan. Help? We need help. In July we will interview candidates for the post of Team Vicar. This key position will provide the help we need to continue to serve your needs in the parish. We're also looking for administrative help and the PCC sup-

Chronicle

ports the idea of hiring a part-time Parish Administrator. At the end of the summer we will open the new Parish Office in the St James Church Centre. We hope and pray that all these might help meet the needs of people throughout Cowley.

We need your help in all these new ventures. Your prayers are essential. Would you please pray that the right candidate be chosen as Team Vicar? Please pray also as we search for a Parish Administrator. The

PCC needs your prayers as we work to discern God's plans and purposes for Cowley and to develop a vision for the parish.

As you enjoy the summertime, take time to relax. When we enjoy ourselves we're able to be more creative and imaginative. Then take a moment to see how you can help. Ask God how he is calling you to be involved in the life of the church.

Howard

from the editors

Dear Readers,

You may have noticed the delays ("slippage" is, I think, the "in" word these days) in the last few issues of The Chronicle. This has been due mainly to pressures of work placed on the editorial team.

In order to spread the workload, Carol Thornton and I will be your editors, and Phil Hind, who has done a magnificent job, will continue to coordinate and lay out the copy.

This issue will be our double summer edition, and we hope you will find it a good read. Carol and I have a few ideas to make our parish magazine interesting, and we're reviving some old ideas too. If there are topics you would like to see included, please do let us know.

At our first editorial meeting we decided that each issue should include faith, news, and fun, so read on, and see what you think. We really want to hear from you.

The next issue will be out on 7th September.

God bless.

Rosanne Butler and Carol Thornton

Cowley Team Ministry

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Norah Shallow

Electoral Roll Officer

Lesley Williams

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Pat Chung
Una Dean
Diana Pope
Christine Woodman

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Diana Pope
Norah Shallow
June Smith
Lesley Williams
Christine Woodman
Co-opted members:
Jenny Bushell
Maureen Chatterton

Carol Thornton

God in My Life

One of the most significant ways in which I learn about God's working in the world is by hearing other people's experience – struggle or success – and how they encounter God. We thought it might be useful to provide a space in the *Chronicle* where people can share their thoughts and ideas and experiences of God's working. I was all set to ask someone else to write the first "God in My Life" article, when God reminded me that he's working in my life as well, and perhaps I should write about our interaction of Sunday, 22 June.

I wasn't even meant to be at St James that day. I'd sent an email to say I shouldn't be put on the intercessions rota, because I'd be at the Church Centre. But when the rota appeared, there was my name. Thinking my email had been lost in cyberspace, I prepared the intercessions and came to St James.

I'd been having a significant internal struggle over a period of at least a month, and wasn't feeling much peace or joy. Seated near the back of the church, I went over it again in my mind. The first hymn began. I might have heard it before but it wasn't very familiar. When the melody went higher my voice sometimes went lower, and I

probably got the timing wrong in places, but the words were exactly what I wanted to express to God at that moment. "Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do...until my heart is pure...till I am wholly thine." Even though I didn't know the song well, I made the song a heartfelt prayer, and through it I found a way to open myself up to God in a way I hadn't been able to for a while.

According to the red book the words are by Edwin Hatch – I didn't know if he was an ancient or a modern. I've since learned that he was born in 1835, studied here in Oxford, ministered in Canada, returned to England in 1867 (the year of Canada's Confederation), and died in Headington. The hymn first appeared in a publication called, "Between Doubt and Prayer." I've been in that place more than once, and perhaps Edwin Hatch has been there too.

The name Horatius Bonar gave me a clue that the writer of the service's second hymn isn't living today. This tune at least was vaguely familiar. I was glad Brian had chosen the

Vaughan Williams setting, or I'd have made a worse hash of singing it. But again, the words were what I needed, a reassurance of the Good News we sometimes forget or take for granted. "I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad... I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live. ..Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright."

I meant it when we sang, "And in that light of life I'll walk, till travelling days are done."

The Gospel reading soon followed. "What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim it from the housetops."

John's sermon was about preparing for the night – about the need to spend time with God, to learn to recognise his voice, to establish a relationship. He spoke of contemplative prayer, and how it can be found through activities such as arranging

the flowers for church. I thought about how I cannot go outside to hang out the washing without being aware of God's presence. Being out in the sun, hearing bird-song, seeing the myriad shades of green, and feeling the breeze on my skin makes me aware of creation and the Creator. Hanging out the washing has become a little space carved out of busy days to spend time in contemplative prayer. What if I were to make use of other times to simply *be* with God? Some day could I, like

Brother Lawrence, say this at every moment? "I am doing now what I will do for all eternity. I am blessing God, praising Him, adoring him, and loving Him with all my heart." And how might that change my life? (Later I learned that John had had to tailor his sermon to readings that he did not expect.)

I thought I wasn't meant to be in church that day. We sang hymns I wouldn't have chosen, because I didn't know them. The sermon might have been preached on a different Sunday. But what

we think are mistakes and miscommunications can be used by God to get across a particular message to someone struggling in the silence of her heart at the back of the church.

That is what God has been doing in my life this week. I'd love to hear what he's been doing in yours. If you'd be willing to share that, to help and encourage others in Cowley parish, please do get in touch!

Carol Thornton

Letters

Dear Editors,

I would like to use this letters page to express my thanks to the members of the parish for the help that is so freely offered to me in my disability.

There is always someone to escort me to take Communion, to take me round for coffee, to help with food at tea break and lunch club. Drivers offer lifts to meetings and social events – sometimes I have several offers for the same event. Parishioners do my ironing, sew on buttons and so small repairs. Sometimes I am brought a meal that I can pop in the microwave.

I do reflect this help in my giving to the church as I am very aware of how much I would spend if I did not have this voluntary help.

I find great comfort in the prayers that I know are offered for me by a number of parishioners. Those prayers help me to cope, and the love and kindness in the parish support me.

I think we are a great parish full of people who are good disciples.

Thank you, all of you. I do appreciate all you do for me.

Una Dean

Hymn Books

I shall be very disappointed if the green hymn books are taken away from church.

They were here before the red books which are heavier.

I know some of the hymns are in both books but I still don't see the reason for getting rid of the green ones. Other people are of the same opinion.

Cyril Room



Greetings from Australia!

Letters

We have now been here for six weeks, having had a wonderful holiday in the United States en route, visiting historic sites up and down the east coast, and spending time with Beth's brother and his family in Washington, with her father in Minneapolis and with her aunty in Chicago.

We are living in temporary accommodation ten minutes from Bondi beach on foot, and five minutes from the centre of the city by train, while Beth helps refurbish the University lodgings into which we shall be moving in about six months' time.

What fun we are having! The place where we are living is new and sleek and modern (we have an elevator for a front door) and has a sunny balcony with a view of the sea. It is about twenty minutes from Michael's family. The children have started school. They all look smart in their uniforms: the boys in blazers and ties, Philippa in a suit with a tie and a hat; and Lucy in crisp blue and white.

Michael started work the day after we arrived in Australia, though he does not take over as Vice-Chancellor until 11 July. He has been visiting faculties and learning about the work of this enormous university: everything from its dog and cat hospital and its dental school, to its large collection of classical antiquities and its school of astrophysics.

The University is extremely impressive and Michael is just a little daunted, but very excited, by the task ahead. We have not yet quite settled on a church, though we have been attending one about two miles from the lodgings which has a very large youth programme and which the children are really enjoying. Sometimes it feels as if we are on a very peculiar holiday. Sometimes we miss home (Felicity says that she misses our green car and talks to Eloise Hind on imaginary phones).

We all miss Cowley very much, and were so sorry not to be there for Gwen's funeral. But we know that God is very good and that, wherever we are, He has us in His care.

Please do drop us a note and let us know how you are getting on. Our address is 3/159 Victoria Rd, Bellevue Hill, Sydney NSW 2023 Australia.



Parish Register

Parish Register

Funerals

Michelina Chiusaano - 31 March 2008
Gwen Ranklin - 27 May 2008

Weddings

Natalie Goulding and Stuart Walton – 5
April 2008

Around Cowley

News Reports

Cowley Mothers' Union

Though we are quite a small branch, we are a lively group of ladies (and gentlemen) who enjoy a variety of interesting activities. At our St. George's Day lunch, to which we invited a number of guests, we made a profit of £20. We added to this the profit of £30 from our highly successful wine, cheese, and poems evening.

That £50 has been sent to our diocesan headquarters to boost the Mothers' Union Overseas Relief Fund which is directed to families in crisis in any part of the world.

Nearer to home, we are embarking on a scheme to provide small soft or knitted toys to send to the new Children's Hospital at the J.R. We have been told by the staff that it is not unusual for a child to arrive in hospital with nothing to cuddle. They are therefore hoping for tiny clutchable toys or finger puppets to comfort their small patients. Of course, anyone can help us with our collection (you don't have to be a M.U. member.) The child keeps the toy when returning home, so the need is ongoing.

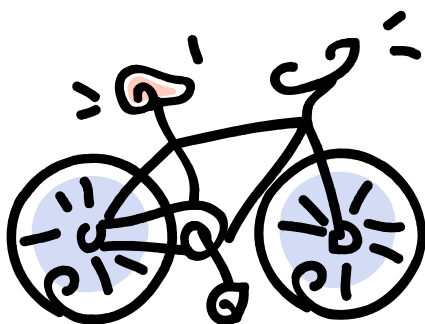
Some of you may remember the "Puddings Plus" evening a while ago. This offered gorgeous home-made puds and a quiz in the Church Centre. We are planning another one in the autumn, so watch for more details in the next *Chronicle*.

The Mothers' Union meets at the Church Centre on the third Monday of each month – 2:30 pm. We have good speakers and interesting meetings. So why not join us?

Ride and Stride 2008

Can it really be a year since we last were busy completing sponsor forms for intrepid cyclists to raise funds for our parish and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust? Well, yes, it is, so it's time to take up the challenge again. Before I tell you the date for this year, however, I'd like to say a huge "Thank you" to all concerned in raising the fabulous amount of £957.70 last year. Doesn't that give our two churches a huge target for 2008?

Now, calling all walkers and cyclists – the date for this year's event is Saturday, September 13th. Sponsor forms will be in St Francis and St James churches throughout August. When you're looking for sponsors, don't confine your requests to your friends at church; don't forget family members, and colleagues at work, your club, or at school. Ask everyone! Make sure they know what a good cause you're supporting. Our lovely churches need our care and protection. And it helps boost our own parish funds.



Calling all potential meet-and-greeters – you can be sponsored too. Your forms will be in our churches alongside the others.

Going on holiday need not be a reason for opting out, by the way. Last year, one lady who lives in Benson did her bike ride round ten churches in the Vendée in France! I don't know how she got her form signed – maybe she took a photo of each church?

The Proms come to Cowley

An exciting and innovative event takes place in Cowley on 30th August – namely, a concert based on The Last Night of The Proms.

The evening begins with a Champagne Buffet at 6:30 at the Church Centre. Promenaders will repair to St James Church for an evening of music from stage and screen, culminating in the rousing, patriotic tunes we associate with the proms in the Albert Hall.

We have booked The Jubilee Brass Band, and the other artists include our two church organists. We hope to secure some solo voices as well. The concert will begin at 8 pm, and will finish when our voices run out!

Tickets will be on sale throughout July and August. They'll be limited to just 100, and cost £15 each. The price includes the buffet, a programme, and a flag to wave. Box office phone number is (01865) 453 257.

We hope this will be such a success that we can make it an annual event!



Report on the Pensioner's Parliament

June 3rd and 4th, Mary and I joined other delegates from the RMA T&GW Union attending the Sixteenth Pensioners' Parliament, being the 100th anniversary of getting a pension in 1908. It opened with a march led by a jazz band and attended by well over 1000 pensioners with banners.

Councillor Mary Smith, Mayor of Blackpool greeted the conference. One point made was the erosion of the pension compared with average earnings. Session speakers included officers of the National Pensioners' Convention; Danny Alexander, MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Works and Pensions; Kate Hoey, Labour MP; Bishop Howard Tripp, Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark; and Professor Alan Walker, NPC patron. The opening session included a performance by the Wingates Band of *Old Age Pension, a Special Music*, composed by Michael Nyman.

There were a number of workshops on subjects such as age discrimination; concessionary travel; council tax; carers; long-term, residential and primary care; and hospital, mental health, and social and community care. Results of all the meetings were collated to allow the information to be used to lobby government ministers.

I brought up the closure of our collection centre and the waste caused by transporting mail longer distances.

Evening entertainment was provided by a dance band, and the Bachelors. Between 2000 and 2500 delegates attended the closing speeches on the final day.

Notice: The next lobby of Parliament will take place Wednesday, 22 October. The RMA will provide a coach for a very reasonable cost. Anyone wishing to attend should speak to me.

Norman Alderson

Send your news to Rosanne, Carol or Philip ... see the back page

ROSANNE INTERVIEWS Patrick Gilday

Should you be passing St Francis' Church one Saturday afternoon in August 2009, and see the roof fly off it won't be because the P.C.C. has neglected urgent repairs to it. It will be because inside Patrick will be marrying his lovely fiancée Lydia! Let me explain. He told me about their plans for the big day. Two hundred guests, a full choir (his special choice), a band (Lydia's choice) and very grand organ music too. He hopes to amplify the sound of the pretty little organ to make a specially fine impression. So you see now, I hope, that all that marvelous music is likely to raise the roof.

Music, Lydia and his faith are the most important influences in his life so let's deal with his faith first.

When he was a very small boy in his first infant school in the little village of South Warnborough, in Hampshire, his rather stern teacher set her class of six-year-olds the task of writing "The Story of an Oak Tree." Patrick wrote, "God planted an acorn and it grew into an oak tree," and handed his work in. "Oh," said the teacher, "so you know about God, do you?"
"Yes"
"Do you go to church?"

"Yes," he replied (even though he didn't!)

In some kind of defiance to her questions he asked his mother, "May I go to church?" His mother took him. "That," he told me, "was how it all began." I know it's a cliché but God certainly does work in mysterious ways.

Music is not a family tradition. Apart from a forebear, five generations ago, who was an organist in Harrogate and a grandfather who was a church chorister, Patrick is a one-off it would seem. That is a rather flippant description though because this talented young man has an honours degree, followed by a masters degree and is now working towards his Ph.D. His research is on the relationship between German musical theory in the sixteenth century and Luther and his contemporaries.

At the age of seven he was fortunate to have as his headmaster a person who loved music and encouraged his young pupils to share his passion. Patrick took up the clarinet and by thirteen had reached grade 8. Through his external examinations from the Royal College of Music he is entitled to add L.R.S.M. to his name. The

next step was to study the piano.

Born in Basingstoke to parents who were often on the move due to his father's R.A.F. postings, he was taken as a baby to Northern Ireland and then back to Hampshire just in time for the birth of his sister Victoria three years later. The next move was to R.A.F. Gutersloh in Germany, and yet another to R.A.F. Odiham. The family then settled in the village of South Warnborough and Patrick and Victoria's journey to school was a delightful walk across the fields. At eleven he transferred to an excellent secondary school, Lord Wandsworth College, with facilities for boarders. As he lived nearby this was not necessary for Patrick although he told me, as he moved up the school he was often on site until eight or nine o'clock in the evening. He and a group of boys were encouraged by a formidable music teacher to sing in a treble choir. He loved it and is still friends with this inspirational lady.

An able student, he sailed through exams. He describes himself as very bookish. He is a character who gobbles up facts and data, at the moment he's into modes and methods of critical analy-

sis. He actively despised sport declaring that he is an exceptionally lazy person. The other reason he rejected team games was because he disliked the idea of being moulded into the accepted pattern of a typical sportsman. After taking French, German, Latin and music at "A" level he came up to Oxford, to Jesus College. He describes his student days as utterly wonderful and blissful in every way. He had a superb music tutor and some excellent friends whose favourite hobbies were good food and good wine. After his honours degree he studied for his masters and then came the question of what next?

He felt in a muddle until God pushed him to go home. His father at that time was stationed in Iraq and his sister was at university so he lived at home with his mother. "Lovely," he said. He found an interesting post within the N.H.S. He helped to implement the government's plan to modernise the Health Service with a computer network. This linked all N.H.S establishments in North Hampshire. He held the post for eighteen months always with the ambition of returning to Jesus College to gain his doctorate. He applied and was accepted.

Now we arrive at the next important step in his life – namely meeting and falling in love with Lydia. He had

heard about her before they were "formally introduced" (his words and so delightful in our casual, modern society). She was the leader of the students' Christian Union. Patrick attended meetings and soon was escorting her back to her digs which happen to be just opposite his. He shares a student flat with three friends in Cumberland Road (just off the Cowley Road). He confided that if anyone had told him a year ago that he would now be engaged and planning a wedding he wouldn't have believed them but you can tell, by the look on his face that he's very, very pleased.

He took on the role of organist at St Francis' Church when his friend, Hannah, took maternity leave. He enjoys playing for services but I am delighted to say that I have persuaded him to also play in the Cowley Proms concert in August. A young man with a love of God and a love of life, as we closed our interview he smiled and told me, "Yes, life is very good."

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Quiet, probably quite fragile. Never slept well, not particularly fond of school, never laddish.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

He'd been part of my life but I didn't know it. About

eighteen months after I was first taken to church my sister and I were baptised together and later confirmed.

If you could make a major change in the world what would it be?

Although it seems unimaginable I long for every single person to have a meaningful, engaging and transforming relationship with God. All good in the world flows from Christ and if that relationship happened that would be the foundation for all the justice and peace we long for.

Is there anything that you find positive or encouraging about our modern society?

In this country that young people are finding their voice. It is not possible now for them to be seen and not heard.

Do you have a treasured possession?

The ring I got in Italy at a particular time of existential crisis and the cross next to my heart as a physical reminder of Jesus.

Do you have a hero or heroine, past or present?

St Peter because he gets it right the second time and I never get it right the first time either.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Mostly I cook and eat – I love cooking vegetables – tomatoes and onions make me happy. Spending time with Lydia, we enjoy simple things and drinking good wine.

Are there places in the world you still want to visit?

I would like to see the desert states of America and places in the world where the pace of life is slow. Or anywhere where I don't have to fly!

What are your ambitions for the future?

At the moment I'm exploring with Howard whether I'm called to ministry, but I have recently found out never to plan with God. He has plans up His sleeve that can change your life in ten minutes.

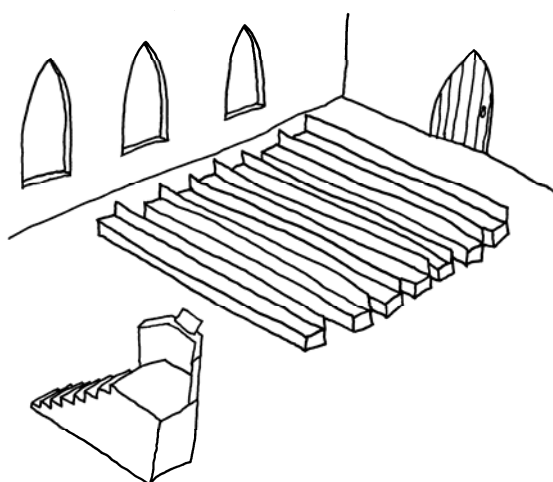
Do you have plans or ambitions for the future?

Rosanne Butler

St James' Day Patronal Service and Summer Party

St James' Day Summer Party is being held **Friday 25 July**. Everyone is welcome to attend the Patronal Service at St James Church at 6:30, followed by a bring and share supper party. Please be sure to indicate whether you will bring a savoury or a sweet dish on the usual back-of-the-church lists.

THE CHURCH IS EMPTY



THIS IS BECAUSE EVERYONE IS OUTSIDE
IN THE GARDEN HAVING A PARTY



CartoonChurch.com

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will resume at 9 am on Saturday 6th September 2008, returning to the William Morris pub (Wetherspoon's) Templar Square area.

We hope to have a variety of guest speakers during the next season, orating on all kinds of topics and experiences. These gatherings will be held each month, as before.

Please do come along if you can.

Gerald Ives

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

The new classroom at St Christopher's CE Primary School

In December 2005, St Christopher's school found out that a new classroom for the Foundation Stage would be built to give the school an admission number of 45.

In March 2008, the building programme finally began much to the delight of the staff, parents children and Governors of the school. Having this new classroom will ensure that all the F1 children in school will have full-time education in a class of 22/23 children - this will give them a very positive start to their school career. In addition to all of this, the new classroom has been designed with a future view to housing an after school club as part of the 'Extended Schools Agenda'.

The children are enjoying watching the development of the new room and we are hopeful that it will be completed for September. There will be a huge celebration when it is finally open.

Alison Holden - head teacher

On the Phone

“Sorry dear, must dash, I’m awfully late!”
“Why? Where are you going? Have you got a date?”
“Not me. It’s the church *Table-Top*, you know.”
(Gosh, feeling tired, but I’d better go.)

Arrived at the centre with lots to do.
Home-made preserves and all things new.
With laughter and smiles, many things sold.
My weariness left me. I felt young, not old.

Travelling home, we discussed as we went
The work of the morning and the joy it had meant.
Old friends to greet, new ones too –
It had been a pleasure all the way through.

My friend phoned to ask, “How has it gone?”
I happily told her, “We went like a bomb!”
She said, “Bet you’re tired – go early to bed.”
“Not me,” I laughed. “I’ll watch a film instead.”
Gwen Fancutt

oops

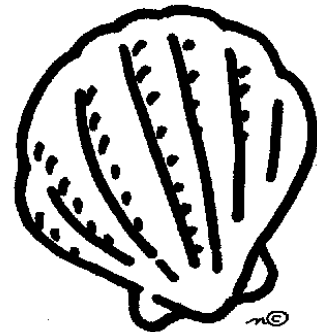
We seem to have a gap.

Could you fill it with a story, article, poem or some news. Don’t be afraid. Talk to one of the editors.

See the back page...

Seashells

The last Seashells before the summer holidays will be on 15 July. After the summer a number of the present organisers including Chris, Rosemary and Lorna, will be stepping down from leading the group. We have all really enjoyed being involved with Seashells over the past 2½ years, and it has been a pleasure to get to know all the parents, carers and children who come each week, but it is time for us to move on to other ventures such as employment and further study! Seashells restarting in the autumn will be dependent on new leaders coming forward to help out, so if you think you could help out, please do get in touch.



We would also like to thank the fabulous catering teams of Rosanne and Frank, and Sylvia and Bob, who have provided a friendly chat along with the refreshments. Thanks also to Cyril for bringing a great array of biscuits and other treats each week, and to Chris Knevett and Joy for achieving the impossible task of putting all the toys back into the cupboard they came from at the end of the morning.

Lorna Hind

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St James the Great, Apostle and Martyr

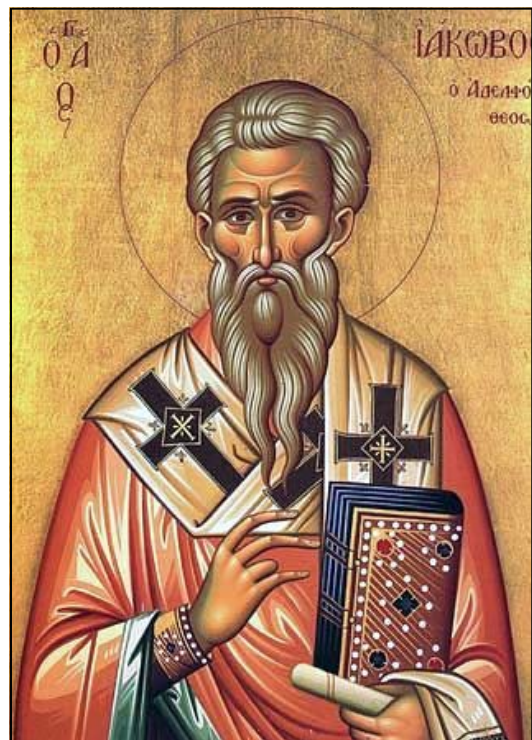
(died C. A.D. 43)

St James, the brother of St John, was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and therefore a cousin of Jesus. He and St John were partners with St Andrew and St Peter and were called to be Apostles at the same time, when, after the miraculous draught of fishes, they “forsook all and followed Him.” With St John and St Peter he is one of the three Apostles who were taken apart by our Lord at the raising of Jairus’s daughter, on the mount of Transfiguration and in Gethsemane. About fourteen years after the Crucifixion he was arrested, with St Peter, by order of Herod Agrippa, and was put to death with the sword. Eusebius relates that his accuser was so moved by the witness he bore before the judgement-seat, that he confessed himself a Christian, and was led with him to execution. On the way he asked St James to forgive him, and St James, after considering a little, replied, “Peace be to thee,” and kissed him.

There is also a legend that after Pentecost he preached for a time in Spain, and that when he was beheaded his body was placed in a ship at Jaffa, which was sent adrift and eventually reached Spain. The place where the body was buried is said to have been revealed in a vision A.D. 800; the supposed relics were translated to Compostela, which became a famous place of pilgrimage. St James became the patron saint of Spain, and was believed to have appeared on many occasions mounted on a white horse, and leading the Spanish armies to victory against the Moors. The first of these occasions was in the year A.D. 939, when King Ramirez of Castile vowed to deliver his country from the tribute of one hundred virgins it was compelled to pay yearly to the Moors. He collected his forces, and was defeated at Clavigo. That night the Apostle appeared and promised him victory the next day. In the morning the king described the vision to his soldiers, and led them once more against the foe. As they charged they saw St James mounted on a white horse and waving a white standard aloft. A great victory was won, and 60,000 Moors were left dead on the field.

He is represented with a sword, and afterwards with a pilgrim’s staff and scallop-shells, and is the patron of pilgrims, either because according to this legend he was the first of the disciples to go on a missionary journey, or because of the numerous pilgrimages that were made at an early date to his shrine at Compostela.

Clarke, C. P. S. *Everyman's Book of Saints*. London: A.R. Mowbray & Co., Ltd, 1933.



Keeping in touch

In our occasional series I try to address issues that might be helpful for housebound or disabled readers. This month I have been told about problems encountered by people who drive their buggies on the pavements.

One obstacle happens when a vehicle is parked with two wheels on the pavement, making the space too narrow to go through. A person on a buggy is then stuck. Often there is no convenient dropped kerb to use in order to drive into the road to circumnavigate the vehicle. Although this would not solve the immediate problem, I understand Age Concern has produced a flyer that can be tucked under a windscreen-wiper, informing the driver that he/she is parked illegally. It might help to carry a mobile phone and call the police!

Whilst on the subject of dropped kerbs, their placement can pose a problem for people crossing roads. In order to easily negotiate a crossing, it is necessary to have dropped kerbs opposite each other. At traffic lights and pedestrian crossings all is well, but on a long road in a residential area ... well, imagine the dilemma.

If anyone wishes to raise this issue with the “powers-that-be,” the man to write is John Sanders at County Hall, Oxford. He is the person responsible for roads. I have, though, asked if this could be mentioned at a meeting of the Oxford Pensioners’ Forum. Norman Alderson has assured me that he will try to do this. Norman and his wife Mary are members of the forum and think it might well be an item for a future agenda.

Rosanne Butler

Help wanted!!

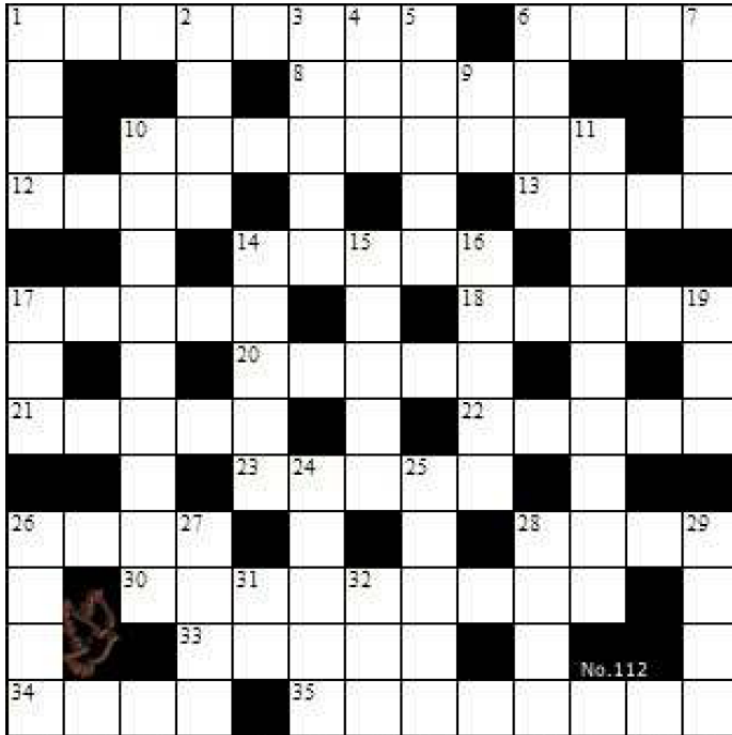
We’ve noticed a “link” between Howard’s article and some items in The Link. Here are a few opportunities for people to join in the life of the parish, and to keep active some ministries that have been ongoing.

On Saturday morning, 12 July at 10 o’clock, there will be a **garden working party**. Just turn up on the day with a bit of energy and perhaps your gloves and some tools, help tidy up the garden, and get to know some of our members a little better.

The parish needs someone to take over the production of the monthly **Prayer Diary**. The format is all set up. You just need a computer and some ideas. For more information speak to Louise Hodges (Hodgeslouise7@aol.com).

Seashells is a weekly event for parents and toddlers. Due to relocation or new jobs, some of the regular helpers have stepped down. Can you spare a couple of hours once a week to help out?

For more information about any of these, contact Howard on 01865 747 680.



ACROSS

1 They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they ___ the deeds of the wicked (Jer 5:28) KJV 6 They hatch the ___ of vipers and spin a spider's web (Isa 59:5) 8 When you make a vow to God, do not ___ in fulfilling it. (Eccl 5:4) 10 I will honor, but those who despise me will be ___ (1 Sam 2:30) 12 O Sovereign LORD, ___ well with me for your name's sake (Ps 109:21) 13 Daniel, close up and ___ the words of the scroll until the time of the end (Dan 12:4) 14 do not reap to the very ___ of your field (Lev 23:22) 17 Jesus went into the synagogue and ___ to teach (Mark 1:21-22) 18 the judgment of the great ___ that sitteth upon many waters (Rev 17:1) KJV 20 Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for ___ (Acts 19:24) KJV 21 Bring the whole ___ into the storehouse, that there may be food (Mal 3:10) 22 Heal the sick, ___ the dead,

cleanse those who have leprosy (Matt 10:7-8) 23 a time to mourn and a time to ___ (Eccl 3:4) 26 The woman came and knelt before him. " ___, help me!" she said (Matt 15:25) 28 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as ___ (Matt 28:3) 30 ___ the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days (Num 9:20) 33 the ___ of vipers that glide in the dust (Deut 32:24) 34 Their breastplates were fiery red, dark ___, and yellow (Rev 9:17) 35 Now you ___ in Jerusalem and men of Judah (Isa 5:3)

DOWN

1 a man who ___ him ten thousand talents was brought to him (Matt 18:24) 2 those who ___ against me use my name as a curse (Ps 102:8) 3 the lot fell to Matthias; so he was ___ to the eleven apostles (Acts 1:26) 4 As Jesus walked beside the ___ of Galilee, he saw Simon (Mark 1:16) 5 I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not ___ (Ps 26:1) KJV 6 But Noah found favor in the ___ of the LORD (Gen 6:8) 7 The ships were wrecked and were not able to set ___ to trade (2 Chron 20:37) 9 On one occasion ___ expert in the law stood up to test Jesus (Luke 10:25) 10 Your sons and ___ will prophesy (Joel 2:28) 11 as I passed by, and beheld your ___, I found an altar (Acts 17:23) KJV 14 So he ___ their days in futility and their years in terror (Ps 78:33) 15 ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy ___ from Egypt (Gen 42:3) 16 How he ___ unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God (Ps 132:2) KJV 17 "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." ___ they laughed at him (Matt 9:24) 19 mother of Seth (Gen 4:25) 24 Therefore now ___ your ways and your doings (Jer 26:13) KJV 25 "Why? What ___ has he committed?" asked Pilate (Mark 15:14) 26 flowing from the throne of God and of the ___ (Rev 22:1) 27 I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a ___ (John 1:32) 28 Go, ___ everything you have and give to the poor (Mark 10:21) 29 The first woe is past; two other ___ are yet to come (Rev 9:12) 31 Come, follow ___, " Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men (Matt 4:19) 32 as a thread of ___ is broken when it toucheth the fire (Judg 16:9) KJV

The Chronicle goes international

Your own parish newspaper has recently been read on the other side of the world. On 2 June, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, in an article on the appointment of the Revd Dr Michael Spence as the new vice-chancellor to the University of Sydney, quoted from an article he wrote for the *Chronicle*.

The reporters do not seem pleased that a person of faith is heading their secular institution, but could find no scandal other than that Michael believes that "all the people of God are his saints and priests: each and every one of them."

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) All Age Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist – 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>
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Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Group – <i>St Francis</i>
	2.30 pm	Parish Mothers' Union – <i>St James (3rd Mon)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Seashells – <i>Summer Break</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St James</i>
	12.30 pm	Tuesday Lunch Club – <i>St James</i>
	2.30 pm	Friends of St Francis – <i>St Francis (2nd & 4th)</i>
5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>	
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	2.30 pm	Tea Break – <i>St Francis (1st Wed)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>

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Deadline for copy is the 20th
of each month. Next issue
7th September