

Who are you, really?

On the 23 April Stephen Sutton, a young man very ill with cancer, posted his picture on Facebook and told those following him, "It's a final thumbs up from me. It's a shame the end has come so suddenly."

For four years Stephen, who is 19, has battled cancerous tumours in his bowel, knee, groin and pelvis. He has undergone seven surgeries, 30 sessions of chemotherapy, 4 bouts of radiotherapy and endured many days of the physical pain and sickness that cancer treatments brings. When he learned his cancer was incurable, Stephen decided to use the time, however long, to have some fun and do the most good that he could. He wrote his bucket list and hoped to raise £10,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. To date he has completed many of the 48 items on the list, and raised more than £3 million. He has jumped out of airplanes and played drums at Wembley Stadium

"One week after the original operation to remove cancer from my bowel and one day after being released from hospital, I ended up going to a fancy dress party. The surgeon gave me advice to go home, take it easy and basically do nothing. But I decided to go to this party dressed as a granny in a wheel chair. And because of how much weight I'd lost and how thin and pale I was, I was pretty convincing. But by the end of the night I'd been pushed around in my wheel chair as part of a conga line, having an absolutely fabulous time. And this was me from the off, making a statement of how I was going to overcome my illness."

Stephen told a school assembly, "The fact that life sometimes doesn't seem fair, fuels my motivation to make the

world a better place. Bad things happen, but it is how you react to these things that define who you really are."

Facing death, Stephen has defined his life in new terms. "I haven't asked how long I've got left to live because I don't see the point in measuring the worthiness of your life in terms of time, but rather you should measure it in terms of what you achieve."

Recently Stephen's breathing became laboured and he had such constant and intense coughing, he felt strongly that his was the end, and he posted his final goodbyes online. But he coughed so hard he dislodged a tumour in his lungs that was restricting his breathing. As a result he can now breathe normally and has regained strength.

Knowing he has cancer has made Stephen aware of things many people forget: life is short, so celebrate each day; give of yourself, help others, contribute, and enjoy the journey. If you concentrate too much on the pain, you will miss the point of life.

Jesus taught us to do good, to forgive, to love others, even our enemies, and to enjoy the journey. Life in all its fullness is a gift from God. Stephen's life is an example to people everywhere, of how to live an abundant life.

At a recent seminar about what makes life great Stephen said, "My core purpose of helping others is still the same. What I can try to do is give you a bit of my motivation, to go out there and achieve something, to go out there and help others, to go out there and enjoy life, and to make a difference."

That's something we should all take to heart.

HOWARD

Chronicle

May 2014

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

It is not always easy to get things absolutely right hence a couple of apologies for details that went wrong last month.

Our popular article "From the Archives" which features material from long-gone Cowley Chronicles is not easy to reproduce. So it is with sincere apologies I regret the awful quality of the photo of Julie Sansom we printed last month. She was such a pretty little girl, a pupil at the old St James School, when that photo was taken and in the old newspaper it was of reasonable quality. However, our reproduction of it did her far from justice when it appeared in print. The other mistake on my part was to make much of the hymns which Brian Tidy chose for his "Hymns of Praise" occasion to celebrate his diamond anniversary weekend. I understood that all the hymns were to be chosen from the English Hymnal. Not so. One or two were taken from the Source. Not that it mattered on the night because we had a very joyous communal celebration and came away from church much uplifted.

While we are on the subject of Brian's special weekend I would like, on behalf of everyone who attended, to congratulate those who organised the reception and concert. Both were exceptionally good and I am sure Brian himself felt suitably appreciated.

And again on the subject of congratulations, I would like to say a huge "well done" to our youngest bell-ringer, Jamie Brown. He has for some years held an ambition to become an engineer on leaving school. He applied and has

been accepted to study at the prestigious college of motor engineering at Brooklands in Surrey. Of course we shall miss him in our bell-ringing team but I am sure we wish him good luck on the first step of his career ladder.

I wonder if you remember me mentioning in my anemone article for Flower of the Month a couple of months ago that the blue wild anemone is so rare that there are only three special places in Britain where it can be found. Well, I can record that there is a site in Cowley where they grow. The other day Frank and I turned into the little lane at the bottom of Temple Road which follows the boundary of The Marsh Park. There we found a beautiful cowslip meadow and, under the trees, a clump of wild blue anemones. That is another reason to describe Cowley as special!

Please, readers, do remember that we, at The Chronicle, are hoping to publish stories of those who served in the First World War in our summer issue. So far we only have three so do let us know if you have a tale to tell about a former relative or friend from long ago.

Before I close this month I want to say how pleased we are that after a few days in hospital our hardworking, reliable team member, May Morgan, is back with us and looking so much better. I can assure everyone that she is a valued Chronicle printer and distributor as well as a much loved person in our parish.

Don't forget the parish plant sale on 17th May, even if you do not want plants the cakes, raffle, etc. are well worth a visit. See you there?

God Bless

Rosanne

Book of the Month

Where Jesus Walked
by David Marshall

The description of the scope of this book says:

“In search of Jesus Christ among the towns and villages, mountains and deserts, shrines and holy places of present day Israel”.

The author, who is obviously a committed Christian, places the ancient sites and places of interest firmly in their present day setting so that if you have never been to the Holy Land, or are never likely to go, you get the flavour of the historical along with the views of the modern. Thus you get a balanced picture of things.

If you have toured the area before, this little book will bring back good memories. The author has obviously visited Israel many times, and has a firm grip on the historical significance of every place he describes. And he is not afraid to convey his personal impressions both on primary and on subsequent visits.

The book is well illustrated throughout with colour plates, and the author has gone to great trouble to dig a bit deeper than the merely superficial, and makes sure his facts are right. The result is a book that satisfies the soul as well as the intellect.

I commend it to you.

John Shreeve

Greetings from Canada

We have just had a letter from Tannis and Keith Collins. They attended St James while Keith studied in Oxford, and now live in Winnipeg, Canada.

Tannis worked as a receptionist until the autumn, and sings with Canzona, a baroque choral ensemble.

Keith is Assistant Pastor at Tabernacle Baptist Church and teaches Classics at the university. He plans to submit his doctoral thesis, on the Epistles of Ignatius of Antioch, this year.

On September 26th they welcomed into their family baby Elinore Jayne. Their elder daughter, Adeleine, is now 5, and “reads everything that comes into her reach.” Since infancy she has had kidney and bladder problems, which doctors seem to be struggling to diagnose and solve, despite surgery and many tests and procedures. (I’ve put a photo of Adeleine and Elinore on the glass at the back of St James Church).

Perhaps we can keep them all in our prayers!

Carol Thornton

THOUGHT

Shall we make a new rule of life from tonight: always try to be a little kinder than is necessary?

J M Barrie

Film Club at the Centre

The showing of "High Society" on our April club night drew a large group of members and guests. As usual donations saw profits for the evening reach well over £50.

May's club night on Friday, 9th will again offer another sharp contrast when we shall be showing "Tea with Mussolini". The story features a group of very British ladies who, for various reasons, are living in the city of Florence. The film begins in 1935 when all seems quiet and normal except that one of the group takes on the responsibility of bringing up an unwanted little boy. Within a few years they are caught up in war with its many "problems" though the stiff upper lip begins to show. I won't spoil the story but I promise you a very good film. When I also report that among the stars are Lily Tomlin, Joan Plowright, Cher (a big surprise), Dame Judi Dench and Dame Maggie Smith (who is magnificent) you will appreciate that the standard of acting is first class.



The film in June will be our first history drama "A Man for All Seasons" – another complete contrast.

Good club nights to look forward to.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN MAY

The Cunard shipping line was founded by Canadian Sir Samuel Cunard on 4th May 1839. On the same day in 1904 Charlie Rolls and Fred Royce got together to form their world famous car company.

On 9th May 1969 Pope Paul VI ordered that a group of saints should be deleted from the Church's calendar – these included St Catherine and St Christopher. St Nicholas (Santa Claus) and our patron saint, George, were declared optional saints.

The first film Academy awards were presented in Los Angeles on 16th May 1929. It was only two years later that they were nicknamed "Oscars".

In the year 1900 on May 22nd the age limit for boys working in mines was raised from 12 to 13.

The newly-built Coventry Cathedral was rededicated on 25th May 1962 after the old cathedral had been destroyed by bombs during World War II.

On May 31st 1911 the ill-fated RMS "Titanic" was launched in a Belfast shipyard.

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

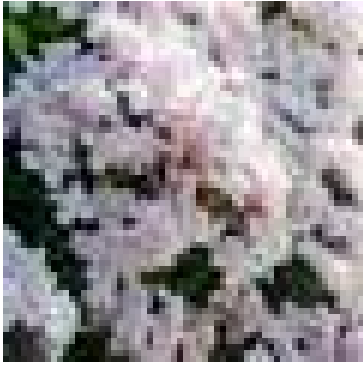
Tuesday, 20 May 2014
commencing at 8.00 pm

TALK: The Lost Manor of Chalgrove

An Illustrated talk by Alan Hardy

At United Reformed Church, Temple Road, Cowley
Annual Membership fee £18 (OAP £16)
Visitors welcome £3 per meeting

FLOWER OF THE MONTH – CLEMATIS



The wild species of this month's flower is known as old man's beard, a very good description of the lovely greyish-white fluffy seed heads which grace our autumn countryside.

Not quite so spectacular but well worth noticing are the dainty little pale yellow summer flowers. They are part of the ranunculaceae family.

In the seventeenth century they were known as clematitis but the famous herbalist John Parkinson shortened the name and so it has remained. They caught the eye of another botanist of the day, John Gerard, who said that though the plant had no medicinal use it was "esteemed onley for pleasure, by reason of the goodly shadow which they make with their thicke bushing and clyming, as also for the beauty of the floures". He called them Travellers-Joy a name well-used in the countryside and even by Shakespeare.

The bigger flowering clematis originated in China and reached Britain by way of Japan. The famous Quaker, Dr John Fothergill had "a burning love of botany" and filled his garden with them in the nineteenth century. He favoured the big flowering clematises which are most prevalent in our modern gardens. The one which is most popular is the jackmanii with its large deep purple blooms and from which many of the newer varieties have been bred.

When clematis were introduced to Britain they were usually allowed to trail horizontally over a flower bed thus deterring weed invasion. I had always expected to see them trailing over trellis,

climbing through trees or covering an old tree stump. However, on a visit to a country hotel a few years ago I noticed that their gardener had allowed deep purple clematis to cover flower beds on either side of the front door and very beautiful they looked too.

In the late nineteenth century the landscape gardeners William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll turned from formal, structured planting to a softer, "wilder" look in their schemes and it was then that the clematis gained its popularity in Britain. The dainty Montana variety was introduced and spread its "lace curtain" effect over many cottage gardens. The early less "fussy" varieties are certainly the easiest clematis to grow as the over-bred fancy ones can often revert back to their wild cousins in a year or so. Our alkaline soil in this area suits them and cutting them back at the end of their flowering season ensures new growth and lots of blooms the following year.

KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves KFA Moves

Dance Based Keep Fit Class with Barbara

St Francis of Assisi Church
Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford OX3 7JP
Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.45 am

Improve your energy levels, muscle tone and flexibility
Come and enjoy the friendly, fun atmosphere

This class most suited to active 50+
Please bring a mat/towel **First class ½ price**

Dance Based Fitness Class, Lean Machine, Cowley – Tuesdays 7.30-8.45pm

For further details of both classes phone Barbara
07752626642
KFA Fitness through movement, dance and exercise
www.keepfit.org.uk

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday, 6 April 2014, after a lovely soup and fruit lunch in aid of Christian Aid. The meeting appointed the following:

Church Wardens:	Norah Shallow David Stanley
PCC Members:	Pat Chambers Joan Coleman Matthew Emerson Vicky Hall Gerald Ives May Morgan John Shreeve Lesley Williams
Treasurer:	Joan Coleman
Secretary to PCC:	Sally Hemsworth
Electoral Roll Officer:	Lesley Williams
Independent Examiner (Accounts):	Maureen Thomas
Deanery Synod:	Nick Dewey William Hartley Margaret Weller Chris Woodman

The Sidespersons for St James and St Francis Churches were also appointed.

The meeting accepted reports from the Team Rector, the Team Vicar, the Associate Priest, and from the groups associated with the church. All the reports showed a very active parish - if you have not read the report copies are available in both churches.

The Annual Congregational Meetings of both churches have met. St Francis Church Committee met on the James Church Committee met on the 27th April, 2014, and appointed its Church Committee:

Sheila Collett
Joel Denno
Jane Phipps
Marlene Shreeve
Rita West

St James Church Committee met on the 29th April 2014, and appointed its Church Committee:

Frank Butler
Rosanne Butler
Peter Dewey
Jason Hall
Ron Maguire
Margaret Martin

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union

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

St James Church Centre

Women's Institute

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

St James Church Centre

St James Café at Cowley Parish Church Centre
10am—1pm

The last Saturday of each month

Next open on Saturday 31 May 2014

Parochial Church Council

Sunday, 4 May 2014, commencing at 12.15 pm

St James Church Centre

Confirmation Service

Sunday, 4 May 2014, commencing at 6.30 pm

St Francis Church

Film Club

Friday, 9 May 2014, commencing at 6.30 pm

with coffee and cake

"Tea with Mussolini"

St James Church Centre

Christian Aid Week

11th – 17th May 2014

Plant Sale

Saturday, 17 May 2014

St James Church Centre

Cowley Local History Society

Tuesday, 20 May 2014, at 8 pm

Talk: The Lost Manor of Chalgrove

An Illustrated talk by Alan Hardy

United Reform Church, Temple Road

St Francis Church Committee

1 June 2014 - 12:15 pm

Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees 2014

First planning meeting

Monday, 2nd June 2014, 10am in the Ranklin
Room.

St James Church Committee

8 June 2014 - 12:15 pm

*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.



Plant Sale

St James Church Centre
Beauchamp Lane

Saturday 17 May
10am to 1pm

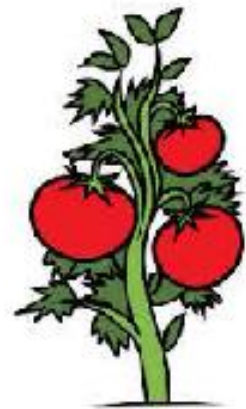
Bedding and herbaceous plants

Vegetables and herbs

House plants

PLUS

Home make cakes + Jams
and marmalades + a raffle +
bric-a-brac + refreshments



Cowley at the turn of the Twentieth Century

(from Nan Davies' memoirs)

We are in Temple Road next door to The Cricketers' Arms.

Mr Wing was Farmer White's shepherd. He was quite big, his wife was very big. She worked in the field just like a man and I have seen the sweat and dirt running down her face on a warm day. Then came another tied cottage where his gardener lived and there was the village pond, 2 more little cottages and the big green which took us back to Pyle Road. Right opposite Mrs Hitchings was the Old Swan pub.

Now I'll take you back to my school days in Temple Road. Much later we had the men come to lay the sewer pipe. It seemed to take ages and we wondered whenever it would be finished, because like all the other outside workers when it poured with rain or there was a frost they couldn't work and in those days - no work, no money - as unions weren't heard of, it made things really very bad for all concerned. 'Uncle' as he was called, but really the 'Pawn Shop' did a roaring trade then, and many a man's suit went to 'Uncle' more times than once and many other things, so people could buy food.

For a long time we had no butcher and had to go to Cowley Road, when we could afford it, but after a time Mr White, landlord of the 'Old Swan' had a little shop built on and we had a butchers shop. He was an unusual man. He always wore a straw hat and had an odd looking

eye. Then following round the corner another piece of spare land, then 2 houses built by the Army for two old soldiers from the war, then there were 2 shops built, one was opened by Butler's (bakers) and the other became Cowley Post Office managed by a Mrs Parkinson and her daughter; then another open field where Cowley Feast was held every year. Sometimes the mud was so thick straw was spread down for us to get into the Fair. Two houses past that also 2 shops, one a little drapers and the other a grocery shop. No road then and of course green fields each side of the uneven surface. For a long time there was spare ground but later they built two shops, one was a shoe repairer and I think the other sold cases and things like that. Then there was a row of real nice houses, about six, they went to the corner of Hockmore Street and round the corner was a Mrs Cox who went in for pig breeding in quite a big way, then another older type of house or two which belonged to Bedford House. This covered quite a piece of ground with a high walled yard behind. In there was a kind of cul-de-sac where a Mr Wilmot had a small holding, a field behind, then just by the Grates was a little wooden gate and in there were 3 sweet little cottages which grew all the lovely old fashioned flowers; big sunflower daises, wallflowers, seven sister roses, bluebells, forget-me-nots, primroses and lots of flowers not often seen these days.

Take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness
Take time to dream – it is hitching your wagon to a star
Take time to look around – it is too short a day to be selfish
Take time to laugh – it is the music of the soul
An Old English Prayer

THE OLD COWLEY ST JAMES SCHOOL

On April 12th a group of people committed to the resurrection of the old school building met in the Church Centre. The meeting was led by Sir Christopher Ball, an eminent man who some years ago saved The Playhouse Theatre from closure. He was formerly the Principal of Keble College in Oxford. The discussion was kept on track with contributions from the building engineer and an architect who had drawn up some excellent projections for the future use of the building.

It was six years ago that Howard saw the need to restore and reopen the old school. For two years work has been done to clear the building of dry rot and other deterioration to the woodwork.

The roof has been made temporarily water-tight and the more recent, and most unsightly, extension has been removed following planning permission. The next move, as far as the builder is concerned is to restore the roof.

Much discussion took place as to the future use of the building. The consensus was that it should be of educational and community use. It is an exciting prospect. A lot of money will, inevitably, be needed but Sir Christopher assured us that with enough will and commitment that should not be a problem. The group have agreed to meet on a fortnightly basis to keep the whole project on track.

COWLEY ST JAMES SCHOOL (the poem)

The Cowley St James School poem was commissioned from poet John Elinger (aka Sir Christopher Ball, one time warden of Keble College, Oxford) at a charity fundraising auction for the Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road.

This is its first publication. We hope it will eventually be used as part of the fundraising drive for the restoration of the Old School, once plans are fully established. So you may have a piece of history in your hands!

Further payments will be made to the Pegasus each time it is reprinted.....so it spreads double joy!

Cowley St. James School

'The people perish, where there is no vision.'
Ignorance corrupts, when there is no learning.
Nature and culture hate an empty schoolroom.
This school once served the parish and its people;
it taught their children numbers, proverbs, wisdom,
the fellowship of faith and hope - and loving.

I search amongst the damp and dust for loving-kindness of gentle teachers with a vision of what those children might become with wisdom, how they might flower in virtue and sound learning, to furnish leaders who could serve the people. Good lives, or bad, are formed within a schoolroom.

This place was once - might be again? - a schoolroom where pupils learned to read and write, and loving schoolteachers taught the skills and knowledge people require for life and work. I have a vision of a new world transformed by humane learning, governed by justice, equity and wisdom.

Where else may we acquire the seeds of wisdom, if not from teachers in some humble schoolroom? Where else might we explore the paths of learning, if not within the care of patient, loving mentors who can communicate a vision of faith and hope - and kindness to all people?

Young Billy Morris studied here, with people whose names are lost, hoping for warmth and wisdom: the bugle boys, and Cowley girls with vision, like Maggie Smith. There shivered in this schoolroom for fourteen decades, solemn and fun-loving children, some seeking, some resisting, learning.

Though life be brief, to live well takes some learning. The health and wealth and happiness of people is learned - or not. So, pity the unloving, faithless and hopeless ones devoid of wisdom, deprived of aspiration, or a schoolroom. 'The people perish, where there is no vision.'

The goal of learning is the prize of wisdom. May Cowley's people soon transform their schoolroom with loving-kindness at the heart of vision!

John Elinger

April 2014

*in support of the restoration of St James Old School
and of Pegasus Theatre*

The darling buds of May!

Time marches on very quickly in Spring. No sooner have the daffodils faded than the tulips brighten our days and cherry blossom petals blow around on the pavements. There is lots to do but I do have to have my annual April visit to Addison's Walk in Magdalen College where the water meadow is a haze of purple snake's head fritillaries with the odd sprinkle of the white ones. It does my heart good. Under foot are the cultivated versions of the wood anemone together with violets and primroses and it is great to just stand and take it all in. Turn the other way and you can watch the contented fallow deer lazily grazing in the park.

It is with heady optimism that I return to the garden, greenhouse and allotment. Lots of seeds to sow and the plants to nurture. May 17th is my goal to get as many plants as I can ready for the Plant Sale. Spring has been good this year with some great sunny days and I am hoping for warmth to ensure that my plants grow strongly.

Some gardeners believe that seeds should be sown with regard to the phases of the moon but most people know that Good Friday is the day to plant seed potatoes. My mother would do this and she would guarantee new potatoes on Whit Sunday. Good Friday is also the day to sow parsley. It is erratic at germination and the old wisdom goes that if the parsley grows well, then the woman "wears the trousers" in the household. I have had really good results so far this year...!

My mother would always sow her runner bean seeds on May Day, and not before, to ensure they are up before the end of the month and to have evaded any May frosts to cut them down.

I will sow some in the greenhouse to fill any gaps where direct sowing has failed. Peas are a problem on the allotment as they often do not germinate. It is said that mice eat them. I have never seen a mouse around but I know that there are rats and fat pea seeds are great to eat. I know that sprinkling a strong smelling deterrent can dissuade these diners. I have used peppermint oil, dilute Jeyes fluid but the best has been out-of-date Olbas oil.

Do come to the Plant Sale this month and, if you can, please contribute plants for sale and help on the day. We usually have a great variety of different bedding and herbaceous plants, house plants, vegetables, herbs, tomatoes. We shall also be needing contributions for the raffle, cake stall, jam/marmalade/preserves/pickles, and bric a brac. Do please help to make it a successful and sociable sale.

Once the Plant Sale is over, I will be potting on my tomatoes in the greenhouse and making sure they are supported in their growth and the glass shaded so they do not fry. The side shoots need to be removed so each plant is a single cordon. By the way, if you gently pull side shoots away they will quickly take, potted on, and each will become a new plant catching up its parent.

On the plot, in May, the frost-sensitive courgettes, pumpkins and sweetcorn can be planted out. You have to hope we do not have a late frost, though. I remember one year when 1st June was frosty and blackened my emerging potatoes.

Happy Gardening!

Joan Coleman

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS



So, it has happened at last, after the long build up through Lent, Holy Week arrived and was celebrated. And we were all left feeling a bit exhausted and flat after the extra services and events. We at St Francis are pleased to report that our carefully planned services went well, and seemed to catch the imagination of our congregations. Our Stations of the Cross on Good Friday was the best attended we have ever had, and it was very moving with a brilliant commentary

On the Saturday (Easter Eve) we had people from both ends of the parish and our clergy team were assisted by Amanda who gave the Homily in the middle. Brian Tidy very kindly offered to fill in on the organ and Patrick gave us a fine virtuoso solo (unaccompanied) of an Easter Anthem. We are also grateful to Les Hemsworth who gave our Paschal Candle Stand

a much needed makeover in time for the service.

Overall our lay helpers put a lot of effort into the Easter events and were very much in evidence on the Saturday morning when a small but dedicated group prepared the floral arrangements, and helped to clean and polish the church for the special Sunday service. The children also helped with the Easter garden with some guidance from a couple of adults; the resulting display was the best we have had for several years.

Now we look forward to our next church festival at Pentecost, and our Confirmation Service with the Bishop coming up soon – but that is another story.

John Shreeve

Most of our generation were HOME SCHOOLED in many ways/cont:

4. My father taught me LOGIC

“Because I said so, that’s why.”

5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC

“If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you’re not going to the store with me.

6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT

“Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you’re in an accident

Why Do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke

Rosanne interviews Sheila Tree

As a local historian, self-taught and still learning, who knows such a lot about our parish it seems extraordinary that we know so little about Sheila. She is a published author of a very knowledgeable book on Florence Park and is currently working on some valuable research about St James graveyard. So let's meet the lady.

Although she was born in St Clements her parents moved to a house in the Florence Park Estate when she was only three. She has lived on the estate ever since with absolutely no intention of moving. She loves the neighbourhood and the folk who live there many of whom she grew up with. Donnington School has played an influential part in her life both as a pupil and a mother. She joined the infant department at "three-ish" and stayed on through the juniors till she was eleven under the headmastership of a much revered man, Mr Hart. She recalls big classes (at least 40 children) and one of the first lessons was the need to "sit still"! She flourished at the school, passed her 11+ scholarship and gained a place at the Oxford Central Girls School in New Inn Hall Street. Sheila was at Donnington during the Second World War

years and recalls the influence that had on school life. In particular she told me about taking shelter in the old air-raid shelters on the opposite side of Cornwallis Road. Equipped with their gas masks, as soon as a warning reached the school the children would be ushered across the road to "sit still" in the cold and dark until the "all clear" siren sounded. Asked how rushed these occasions might have been she said "Oh not at all, there was always plenty of time". Of course it was the Cowley factories that local people believed were the targets for the bombers.

She also told me about the war efforts of her teachers. Most of them were expected to go out on fire-watching duties overnight and then turn up to teach classes the following day. Often, naturally, the beginning of the school day would be delayed until exhausted staff arrived. Sheila also remembers the evacuees from London arriving in her area - lost little children being marched down the street with billeting officers begging the residents to take them in. Her mum took in a little girl about her own age. She came from Poplar in the East End and amazingly she became a best friend for Sheila and has remained so to this day!

All through the war St Giles' Fair came to Oxford and, something I had not realised, the "fair" children were required to go to school in whichever town they visited so it caused quite a stir when they had to be fitted in at Donnington. I suspect it was quite an upheaval for the teachers but the children would have regarded these travellers as exotic beings who knew the ways of the world. The school, right up until its closure, observed May-day with songs, dances and the maypole. In Sheila's day it was set up in the girls' playground as boys and girls were not allowed to mix at break-times. She has fond memories too of fund-raising, war effort occasions like fêtes and also sports day. Maureen Gardener, our own Cowley Olympic athlete, was at school with Sheila which prompted her to say that compared with Maureen she "couldn't run for toffee".

At the Girls' Central School she found a strict regime headed by a Miss Alden. Miss Sowerby (who went onto be headmistress at Cheney School) was her hockey teacher leading the pupils down to Manor Road in, often, cold winter weather for their games. Sheila told me she has never been sporty but enjoyed science and was good

at needlework. She became a school prefect "which brought me out" and she left at sixteen.

Her ambition was to go into horticulture but that did not happen. Instead she became a trainee at Barclays Bank. She was sent up to London for six weeks training and that provided some excellent opportunities to "do" the West End theatres. She remembers fondly seeing "Oklahoma!" direct from Broadway, also a lovely production of "Lilac Time" amongst others. Back in Oxford she joined Barclays branch in Cornmarket as a junior accountant.

As a teenager she enjoyed doing the rounds with two other friends including regular visits to the cinema in Oxford. She often went out to Eynsham and one day the three girls were walking along the river there. She encountered a young man quietly fishing. After a bit of teenage banter they found out his name was Maurice. It was this young man who eventually married Sheila. They courted (lovely word!) for five years with regular classes at Bretts' School of Dancing plus cinema and theatre visits. Their wedding took place at St James Church with Father Whye officiating. The reception was held at the old Nelson pub. The year was 1953 and food rationing was still in place. It is with some pride that Sheila told me how their generous neighbours contributed from their rations so

that she could have a "proper" wedding cake. Then it was back to live with her mum and dad until she and Maurice, after five years, had saved enough money to take out a mortgage on the house in Campbell Road where she still lives.

Maurice worked for Hinkin and Frewin but better money could be earned on the factory line so he moved there. Cash was important because in 1959 their first baby, Deborah, was born. Then along came Christopher three years later and then Andrew who completed the family. It was around these years that Sheila got involved in Florence Park Community Centre. Their women's club was flourishing and she became their treasurer. She explained how the women's club turned into the wives' club and finally the ladies' club and how, now, many of the original members are either too elderly to keep it going or are no longer with us.

Soon Sheila was involved with Donnington School once more as it was the neighbourhood school for her children. I remember her always there on sports days to cheer on her youngsters and a regular on parents' days and social occasions. When the boys were a little older she went back to work, at first one evening a week.

It was her next job which she really loved, as an insurance agent, that took her driving all

over the county. Many of her clients became friends and over the twenty years she worked in the job she found country lanes where the best blackberries grew or places where nice produce could be bought. Sadly her mum was taken very ill so Sheila gave up work to nurse her.

As we were fast approaching the present day we turned to her fascination with all things historical. It all began when she was given her great-grandmother's diary for 1850 and a sampler that same lady had worked in 1825. She began to delve into family history and joined the Family History Society. She compiled her family tree and decided to gather material for her book "The Changing Faces of Florence Park". Lots of photos came to light which helped with the exhibition she mounted for the 50th anniversary of the Community Centre. Her book was launched in the Town Hall where she was greeted by the Lord Mayor. Through the Family History Society she met her present partner which was great consolation as her husband had died twelve years ago.

Work on St James graveyard began when the History Society became curious about twenty-two iron crosses sited there. Curiously there was no record as to their origin nor it would seem much information about the many ancient tomb and grave stones either. She met up with Erma Clarke and with three

experts (including Alan Simpson, leader of the Society) to help them. A lengthy, weekly period of research began. The most demanding work was clearing the vegetation of ages which obscured the stones but each one has now been catalogued and a CD has been released containing all the information which they gathered. Now further work to ascertain the occupants of every grave, marked or not, is taking place every Wednesday throughout the coming summer. Sheila told me she was never one to just sit on her hands. I think we can see what she means!

Now a proud granny to nine boys and one girl and a great-granny to new baby, Rose, the days hardly seem long enough for this busy lady. Her dedication to researching our graveyard along with her friend Erma is something for which we need to offer thanks. All for the love of the history of our parish.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Quiet, shy, I remember I sat

under the table at birthday parties (it was a Morrison air-raid shelter). I had a prized pair of roller skates. I wore one set of wheels out. Dad took them to pressed Steel where he worked and welded new ones on for me.

Have you a never-to-be-forgotten memory of childhood?

I was maypole dancing at Donnington and my knicker elastic broke. The two horrible boys on either side of me would not let go of my hands so my knickers fell down. Imagine my embarrassment!

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

My mum – I was her “single chick”.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

I think it has always been with me since I was a very little girl.

Do you have a treasured possession?

My granny’s wedding ring.

What is your opinion of modern society?

The opportunities to travel are

there. Britain is a good place to live but I think children today are going to have a hard time. It is hard for them to establish themselves.

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

Working as an insurance agent. I was very independent. The children were growing up. I drove all over the place. I also went to union conferences in Blackpool. I really enjoyed life.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Car Boot Sales. My daughter, Debs, likes them too. We go all over Oxfordshire. I read a lot – well-written novels. I have been on some lovely holidays especially coach tours. I spend lots of time on my computer.

What plans do you have for the future?

I have got enough stuff to produce another “Changing Faces” book about Florence Park and Donnington School. I have been collecting it now for fourteen years. I also want to go on enjoying Derek’s company.

CHRONICLE

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

Deadline for the February edition:
Wednesday 21 May 2014

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

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers.

Friends of Lye Valley

Twinkling Stars in the Shadowy Grass

Just to flag up the next Event which may interest you - our Chair, Dr Judy Webb is giving a talk at the Oxford Botanic Garden's Daubeny Lecture Theatre on 22 May at 6.30pm.

<http://www.headington.org.uk/lyevalley/news/index.html>

This talk is about the rare and spectacular wild flowers that survive in the Lye Valley and the fascinating history of their discovery by the early botanists of the 16th, 17th and 18th century.

Contact the Botanic Garden to attend, places may be

limited. There will be a charge and you may need to book.

<http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/events/botanic-garden-summer-lectures>

Thank you everyone who helped with the litter pick - the Lye Valley is even more beautiful when relieved of its cans and plastic bottles - though it's probably an on-going litter pick in reality. Apparently the footpath alongside the Thames /Port Meadow is litter picked by 3 different people on a daily basis - an inspiration to us all!



Looking to encourage your child to read over the long school holidays? Be 'AMAZED' by what's happening at your library this summer!

From 12th July until 13th September, children across Oxfordshire can join the 'Mythical Maze', this year's summer reading challenge, at any of Oxfordshire's libraries.

The challenge encourages children to read at least 6 books over the summer holiday collecting amazing rewards on the way. On completion the children also receive a wristband, a medal and a certificate. Visit the library 3 times to complete the challenge. Simply join up at your local library-it's fun and it's FREE!

(Pssst!..... There is also a separate challenge for adults!)

Look out for fantastic new books, exciting puzzles and fun activities at the library too

And for adults...

Take on a reading challenge!

This summer Oxfordshire Libraries are challenging everyone to try something new with the Summer Reading Challenge for Adults. Pick a postcard and tell us what your personal Reading Challenge is, recommend books to other readers or tell us about a book you've read. All returned postcards will be entered into the prize draw. Visit your local library July 12th- October 15th to join in.

Blackbird Leys Library

01865 770403

blackbirdleys.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

SAINT OF THE MONTH—St Joan of Arc

On the 30th May 1431, at the age of nineteen, Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake by the English accused of heresy. So what had this young girl done to deserve this terrible execution, and why is she now revered as a saint?

Born in the Champagne area of France the daughter of a peasant farmer she spent her childhood at a time when France and England were constantly at war. As a small girl she worked on the family's land and consequently, though intelligent, never learned to read or write. English armies under the Duke of Bedford marched into France and captured numerous fortified towns in an attempt to conquer large regions for the English crown.

Joan was only fourteen when she heard her famous "voices" telling her to save France. She identified the messages as coming from St Michael, St Catherine, and St Margaret of Antioch. She persuaded the powers that be to allow her to talk to the commander of the French Army. He would have none of this precocious child but her voices gave her no rest. She was finally taken seriously when she predicted, accurately, further defeats by the English. Her prophesy brought her into the presence of the Dauphin himself. He had disguised himself to test Joan but she recognised him and so was listened to. She declared that she had received a secret sign but never divulged what it was. She was cross-questioned by the most eminent theologians of the day for three weeks to test her sincerity but they could find nothing to doubt and so advised the Dauphin to make use of her.

She asked for troops to fight for the relief of Orleans and wearing white armour and riding a white horse she rode with the soldiers into

battle. The morale of the army was lifted and a victory was gained. Joan received a wound from an arrow in her chest, recovered and this enhanced her reputation. Further victories ensued and when the Dauphin was crowned in Rheims Cathedral Joan stood at his side carrying her personal banner. Her voices left her, though not before warning her of an early death.

She felt compelled to continue in the military campaigns all the while stirring up jealousy and resentment in the male world of the court, the army and the church. She led the troops to the relief of the siege of Compiègne by the Burgundian allies of England. However when she was taken prisoner by the Duke of Burgundy even the King (Charles the former Dauphin) did nothing to try to save her. She was imprisoned and tried for witchcraft and heresy. She was relentlessly cross-questioned and although she clung on to her simple faith she made mistakes in her answers which gave her prosecutors the opportunity to declare them false and diabolical. She refused to recant and so was handed over to the secular authority for punishment. Taken back to prison she dressed herself in male clothing which further incensed her prosecutors. Her time was up. She was taken out and burned at the stake as a child of the devil and a witch. She died bravely gazing at a cross and calling out the name of Jesus.

Twenty years later her family asked for her case to be reviewed. The Pope at the time, 1456, quashed the verdict and declared her innocent. In 1920 she was beatified as a Christian saint who responded with courage and integrity to what she believed was God's will for her.

MISTAKES

To gaze at the heart of a beautiful flower,
To wonder how soaring pillars were set,
In the nave of a glorious church or cathedral,
To witness such perfection – and yet ...

To hear a melody played without falter,
Thrill to a voice devoid of flaws,
To be served a meal deliciously gorgeous,
But perfection troubles me sometimes because ...

There is something about a tiny wobble,
The frailty of a human touch
Which lifts my heart with gentle endearment
At failed endeavour which says so much.

The arch across the eastern window
In our parish church, an imperfect bow,
Endears me to those early builders
Who carved it there long years ago.

We can't all reach the highest zenith
Of perfection in the things we make.
Not every work of man or nature
Has flawlessness and yet I take

Much pleasure from such imperfections
Quite often they are very small
But they touch my heart whenever I find them
Mistakes can be beautiful after all.

Rosanne Butler



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:
Marsh Road*



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RECIPES (sent in by Cyril Room)

Good things to eat!!

Welsh Cakes

8 oz flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
4 ½ oz sugar
½ lb margarine
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon nutmeg
6 oz currants

Mix margarine and flour together, then add dry ingredients. Beat egg with vanilla and mix with dry ingredients. Roll out on lightly floured board and cut with round cutter about ¼ inch thick. Cook on greased griddle/baking sheet on top of hob (medium heat) till lightly browned, turn cook other side.

No Bake Cookies

Boil for 2 minutes:
8 oz margarine
12 oz sugar
4 fl oz milk

Remove from stove and add:

8 oz coconut
12 oz rolled oats
6 tablespoons cocoa or
6 oz chocolate
1 teaspoon vanilla
½ teaspoon salt

Refrigerate

Butter Tarts

Gas 6/200 C for 15 – 20 minutes

Shortcrust pastry to fill

12 muffin cups

Filling:

1 egg beaten
6 oz butter
6 oz brown sugar
2 tablespoons milk
½ cup currants
1 teaspoon vanilla



Almond Biscuits

Gas 6/200 C for 15 minutes

1 ½ oz ground almonds
1 ½ oz icing sugar
¼ teaspoon almond flavouring
1 egg

Combine ground almond and icing sugar
Add almond flavour to egg and beat
Work into sugar to form a dough

Roll and cut into shape

Cook on greased baking sheet

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Mr. Putin's backdoor

(or the stories you don't hear from Ukraine)



In the Faith2Share office this last month we have been hearing many sad stories from Ukraine. Families and churches have been divided by the current political, and emerging military, conflict and everyone is in fear of what will happen next. Even finding out what is happening now is difficult as everyone tells their own story from their own perspective. Some people tell of a Russian military invasion of Crimea whilst others speak of revolutionary forces in Kiev overthrowing the legitimate (elected) government and bringing chaos to the country. If you watch BBC and CNN and then switch over to Russia Today it is like watching two completely different news stories! Where is the truth?

Jesus claimed to be the 'way, the truth and the life' – three things that the people in Ukraine really need right now. At Easter we recall Pilot's cynical question as he condemned Jesus to death, "What is truth?". If you are a mother and wife in Donetsk today the truth is less about Russian 'security agents' and an 'interim

government' in Kiev and much more about feeding your family, getting your salary at the end of the month, having a safe way to travel across the city to care for your elderly father and maintaining hope for the future. Many of the stories we have been receiving in the Faith2Share office are personal stories of this nature. One family went to Kiev to check that their daughter, who was studying there, was OK after the riots and then could not return to their home in Crimea. Weeks later they are still living with relatives in Kiev. Another person writes about relationships within the church where some people support the interim government and others want Mr. Putin to send Russian troops to protect them. Where is the hope?

Despite the chaos in the country many ministries we work with have been bringing new truth and hope to ordinary people. The picture above shows some of the protestors in Kiev reading Christian booklets distributed to them during the riots. In fact at one stage the demand for Bibles was so high that churches could not keep up with the demand!

Ukraine faces an uncertain future. Please do pray that the ordinary people of Ukraine (as well as the politicians and leaders) will find 'the way, the truth and the life' in Jesus this spring. If you wanted to support the ministry of Faith2Share just call us on Oxford 787440.

Mark Oxbrow
International Director, Faith2Share

EXTRACTS FROM FLORENCE PARK NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2014

Florence Park 80th Festival in the Park * June 21st*

The planning for the festival in the park is growing in momentum!

We have confirmed pony rides, food stalls, the fire engine. There will be a community tent showcasing local activities and interests, children's tent with activities and an area to keep the young ones amused. The Children's Centre will be joining us to provide an under 3's and breastfeeding area. There will be local sports teams and societies alongside the Bowls Club and the history tent will be showing images and stories from the last 80 years. The lovely Morris car club are bringing some wonderful cars, Friends of Florence Park will be providing a tea tent and running a 1930s cake competition and the Oxford Animal Sanctuary will be overseeing the Dog Show! We have just agreed with the Pitt Rivers Museum that they will come along and offer free activities and an object-handling table. PHEW!!!!

We are still very much looking for volunteers to help in the run up to and on the day! Get involved!!

Email: friendsofflopark@gmail.com or: florencepark80th@gmail.com

We will be holding a sponsored Kids' Fun Run on Sunday 25th May – please see the website friendsofflorencepark.weebly.com for details

80th Anniversary STREET PARTY!

The date has been decided for the street party to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Park and Estate. It will be situated along Florence Park

Road on SUNDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER.

Anyone who would like to be involved in helping to organise or help on the day contact us via the website – florencepark80th.weebly.com

Florence Park Community Orchard

80 trees for 80 years!

Help create a legacy for Florence Park's 80th birthday by planting a fruit tree in your garden!

Oxford City Farm is supporting the creation of a Community Orchard in the Florence Park area. The aim is to plant 80 fruit trees – in people's gardens, in the park and other public spaces – to create a focus for community fruit growing into the future. By getting involved you will have the opportunity to:

Get help and advice on choosing and planting a tree, learn and share skills – pruning, grafting, preserving.

Get help with picking your fruit

Enjoy an annual Apple Day with fun fruit activities for all the family – date to be announced – part of the 80th birthday celebrations

Be part of a project to green our lovely area!

If you would like to be involved please get in touch with oxfordcityfarm@yahoo.co.uk and for more information visit <http://www.oxfordcityfarm.org.uk>

We are also running a children's design competition to create a logo for the orchard – age up to 12 – email scanned images to oxfordcityfarm@yahoo.co.uk

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from The Cowley Chronicle, September 1970.



David Tidy, aged 13, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Tidy of St James, who goes to Winchester College this term on a closed music scholarship from New College School,

appeared at the Playhouse last month in the premiere of Francis Warner's new play "Maquettes".

The play, described as a "new landmark of the avant-garde theatre in Britain" was later performed at the Edinburgh Psychiatric Hospital as part of the Festival Fringe, and will be touring North America in November.

ST JAMES CAFÈ

Thank you to all who have supported and who has offered to serve coffees. It would be really good if more people could offer to serve coffees - just for an hour would be good - as I am currently doing it all myself.

I also need people to help with advertising as I would like the cafe to be very popular. Carol is going to put an advert on jack fm and Oxford Mail and we are hopefully going to get a banner to go outside.

The next cafe is on the 31st May so everybody please put your thinking caps on and think of ways we can advertise please.

Vicky Hall

It is not yet known whether David will be given time off by his new school to join the company on its transatlantic tour.

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Christian Aid



Our 2014 Parish Christian Aid pot has begun to fill :

Over the edge - Lesley's Abseil:	08.03.14	£180 + gift Aid = £210
Super Soup Lunch:	06.04.14	£111 + gift aid = £130
		£340

We are again aiming for £2,000

LIVE BELOW THE LINE

The challenge is to eat on less than £1 a day for 5 days. It's designed as an awareness raising exercise but can also be sponsored, with one of the charities involved being Christian Aid. This year, the national week is 28 April – 2 May but the challenge can also be accepted at any time during April/ May/June. Finding a week when there are no meetings-with-meals or visitors or outings with friends is really tricky – which of course just underlines the fact that we live all the time with choices while the poor and underprivileged of the world cannot choose.

Lesley is definitely committing to another go during Christian Aid Week, May 11-17, although, as last year will probably adapt the rules, whilst sticking to the basic principle. She would be glad to hear from anyone else who will join in. Collecting door to door for world poverty projects when hungry oneself will have any extra significance.

See www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christianaidweek/live-below-the-line/

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK May 11-17

We are now signing up volunteers for the house to house collection in as many local streets as possible: please look at your diary for that week and see whether you could make time to deliver envelopes on the Sunday/early in the week and then return to collect – if possible at least a couple of times – preferably early evening during the week. It works well to undertake it as a pair or team. Children/young people can deliver the envelopes but not collect, unless with an adult.

Volunteers are invited to a bundling team tea when we count envelopes, put together the collectors' packs, share ideas and pray together on Thursday 8 May at 4.00pm.

We hope the St Francis congregation will again also find an interesting, inspiring way to support the week and the cause.....

QUIZ AID Friday 27 June

Advance notice of an evening of brain bashing and laughter in support of Christian Aid: for more information about time, team size, what else is on offer etc., watch out next month and in Link.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
'Peace be with you' was your constant greeting.
And so we pray for the peace that brings freedom out
of fear,
hope out of grief, dignity out of violation.
Lead our sisters and brothers out of the valley of the
shadow of death
to a place of still waters, green pastures and
restoration.
And may your peace be in our acting, our giving and
our praying.
'Peace be with you in the name of Christ'.
Amen.



christian
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11-17 MAY

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Need Help With Computers?

From 23rd April, you can book a session with our Computer Volunteer.

Sessions will be on Wednesday from 10.00 and will last up to 1 hour.

They can cover topics such as

-  Internet searching
-  Opening an e mail account
-  Writing a CV
-  Job searching

The sessions are free but booking is essential ~ please ask staff for details
Cowley Library – Telephone 01865 777494

Please pray for Alex

I would like to ask people in the parish to pray for my nephew, Alex. He was 11 last month, and has just completed his second round of radiation treatment for a rare inoperable tumour that surrounds his brainstem. World-wide, only about 300 people a year are diagnosed, and most of them succumb within a year, so less is known about this cancer than many others.

Alex is one of only a few people ever to have a second round of radiation. His symptoms have improved, and in about six weeks they expect to begin therapy with a new drug that shows more promise than anything developed in recent years. Alex and his parents, brother, and two sisters have had tremendous support over the past year, but of course this is hard for all of them. Please pray that they will all experience God's amazing love, and accept his grace.

Carol Thornton

News from Kings Church Durham

Bonjour! I write this having just returned from France. As an intern team from Kings Church Durham we partnered with the Eglise Protestante Evangélique in Nantes, North West France for a short term mission trip. It was a fantastic week, we were asked to help out with a number of activities in Nantes, such as a cafe concert with a British theme, various outreach activities such as singing French worship songs, evangelistic flash mobs, litter picking and giving out food parcels to homeless people. We also spent time learning about the work that the church does to reach out to victims of human trafficking and women caught in prostitution in the area, which is a big problem in Nantes. Many of us stayed with French families from the church which gave an opportunity to practice our French! It was fantastic to get to know the young people in the church and to encourage and pray with them and see them stepping out and sharing their faith with friends who don't know Jesus.

It has been a very busy few months since I last wrote for the chronicle. All of our regular placements in the community have been continuing. I have been continuing to volunteer at Elizabeth House, which provides emergency accommodation for vulnerable women who are pregnant or have young children. It has been fantastic to slowly build relationships with the women and to see their confidence grow in different areas. The second Alpha course of the year that I help to run has just finished and it was fantastic to see people come to faith as a result and some that still have many questions and want to keep in touch and find out more.

A challenging but rewarding part of the year was being involved in an events week called 'cross examined' run by the Durham University Intercollegiate Christian Union in February. A number of Christian Union Guests (CUGs) are invited to live in the Durham colleges during the week. (I took part in the week as a CUG!) The aim is to run a number of talks and events each day to enable people to examine the evidence for the Christian faith, hear the gospel and enable people to ask questions. It was a challenging week. Many of us felt very nervous, and wondered how God could possibly use us, particularly to answer difficult questions about Christianity, especially in a highly intellectual university like Durham! However, God was faithful and used everyone on the team to reach out to people. I was privileged to talk to one student who was an agnostic but had many questions, some of which I had no idea how to answer! I was able to pray with her and God moved in her life and she is now part of a bible study I lead with students. Praise God!

Like last term the weekly theology teaching given by a variety of Theology students and lecturers connected to Durham University has also been fantastic. We have been covering a wide range of topics across the Old and New Testament which has been so helpful in my own spiritual understanding and growth.

I have learnt many things this term, but I have been reminded of 2 Corinthians 3:5. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. I am reminded that the little

we have to offer God, whether that be skills, abilities, money or time, He can use it powerfully to further His Kingdom on earth, in our communities when we come before Him humbly and prayerfully. It is wonderful to know that God chooses to use us to show His love to people and share the gospel, but that it is in His power and strength that we do this.

It would be wonderful if you could remember the following in your prayers:

For the people who came along to the Alpha course, particularly for those who still have many questions, may we have wisdom as a team in

how best to support them, and help them explore their questions.

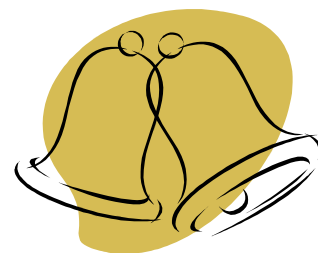
For energy and strength for the intern team as we enter into the final term of the internship. That we would be able to balance our work in community placements and the church with personal studies.

For the work of the church in Nantes particularly in reaching out to prostitutes in the area, that they would build good links with the police and that God would provide opportunities for the women to hear the gospel.

Kim Hughes

News from the Bell Tower

We were very pleased this year to be able to muster enough of us to ring for the Easter service. Often people are away at Easter, but this year, we managed to ring with five.



We were also very pleased to be asked to ring for the service to celebrate Brian's 60 years as organist, and managed to have all six bells ringing for this wonderful occasion. Other than this, it has been a fairly quiet time. It is traditional to have no ringing in Holy Week, so we held no practice then, but aside from that, we have been practicing every Thursday evening, and several of us continue to attend the practice at Iffley. Next Saturday we have an extra practice at Cowley, with experienced ringers from several Oxford towers coming along to assist us with some method ringing. We are extremely grateful for all the support we get from other towers, and I just hope one day we become good enough ringers to be able to help others in our turn. I must also give a special mention of thanks to Ed, who has supplied us with some lovely new boxes. The shorter ringers amongst us need boxes to stand on to reach some ropes, and our old ones were desperately in need of updating, with signs of woodworm appearing, and Ed came straight to the rescue.

As ever, if you would like to come and see what we do, or would like to have a go at ringing, our practices are 7.30 – 9pm Thursdays. The small side door into the tower is open, so just turn up – we would love to see you.

Lindsay Powell

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Sung Eucharist
Every 3rd Sunday at 4.30pm (<i>in church</i>)	Church at the Centre
Every third Sunday	Sunday Lunch

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30am	Parish Eucharist
---------	------------------

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.

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 Wednesday as her day off.

Associate Priest

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

Non-stipendiary Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow
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Church Centre: Pat Sansom Tel: 778516
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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
Thursday	8.30am	Morning Prayer— St Francis
	7.00pm	Cowley Parish Healing Service St Francis (1st Thursday)
Friday	2.00pm	Bingo—St James

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