



crostalk

July - Sept 2006



St. Mary's Church Cogges
& St. James the Great South Leigh
making Christ known by word and deed...

Cogges Parish Office, Cogges Church Centre, Church Lane, Witney t: 01993 779613

e: office@coggesparish.com w: www.coggesparish.com

Restoration of St. Mary's Cogges...

I'm sure many of you will have noticed the big green 'house' outside the lychgate of St. Mary's and wondered, "is this the Vicar's new lodgings?" or "is this the kiosk where one must pay to enter the church?!" Actually, that sounds like quite a good idea!

Since I arrived here I've always had a sense that, spiritually, St. Mary's, Cogges is a very special place, maybe because people have worshipped God here for over nine hundred years – praying for the parish and supporting those in need.

You only have to sit in the churchyard for a few moments to recognise an extraordinary peace that tends to encompass you.

In my mind's eye, there is a picture of our beautiful church, warm, welcoming and open - a quiet place, a place of rest

and a place where one can find God away from the busyness of daily life. I can also imagine it as a place where many different activities are going on during the week – toddler services, concerts, worship activities for all ages,

The Clergy Team



Vicar:
Revd
Andrew Sweeney



Curate:
Revd
Miriam Keen



NSM:
Revd
Tim Edge



Associate Minister:
Revd
Penny Joyce

courses on marriage and family life. The list is endless.

One of the first tasks when I arrived here four years ago was to make the church water tight, which, due to the financial generosity of many people, we have achieved. The second project was to realise my vision of how a church ought to function for its community by creating more seating capacity

in a way that would enhance this beautiful building and enable greater

flexibility for the spiritual needs of a 21st century generation.

You can imagine the planning required to make major alterations to an ancient monument! The whole process has taken eighteen months, primarily due to our ambitious plans and the desire to be architecturally sympathetic to the building.

Phase one has involved the floor and heating system being replaced. The whole building will benefit from under floor heating provided by an ecological low CO2 emissions heat source. The heat will come from bore holes in the Priory Paddock and a ground source heat pump.

Lowering the floor level to accommodate the under-floor heating has been a fascinating project. Oxford Archaeological Unit have been on site periodically to inspect and record anything of archaeological interest. There have been no significant finds and

the restoration project remains on target.

The 14th century Blake Chapel has been transformed by the removal of the Victorian organ, exposing the windows of the north wall and allowing the evening light to stream into this stunning place for the first time in at least one hundred and fifty years. The Chapel is indeed a beautiful space and I can envisage it being used for more meditative styles of worship and prayerful reflection.

Many of us in the church recognise the requirement for an organ to aid us in our worship, especially at weddings and funerals. I'm delighted that the first phase of the project will include the building of a bespoke electronic organ to be situated on the north wall of the nave.

The initial restoration will be completed by the end of July in time for all our weddings in August and September. Of course

this is only the first phase – the next stage will involve the installation of a new sound and vision system and eventually new lighting to transform the building.

I am indebted to the congregation of St. Mary's, who have committed words to action by pledging well over £100,000, enabling us to complete phase one.

I have always maintained that this is more than a building project - it is in every sense of the word a restoration project. It is my hope and prayer that the worship of God will continue here for centuries to come and that many members of Cogges community will, as St. Augustine said, 'find their rest in God'.

Andrew Sweeney



Jungle Jamboree...

Holiday Club for Children from Year 3-6.
(Children aged 8 before July 25th)

Tuesday 25th - Thursday 27th July
9.30 - 12.30am **Blake School: £3**

Craft, Music, Games, Drama, Quizzes
and lots more...

Contact: **Sam Travis** on:
07877 905836 or email:
thesamiad@hotmail.com



Community Choir...



Calling all children who enjoy singing and making new friends! Imagine making music at Christmas in the medieval setting of St. Mary's, Cogges or in the local Farm Museum. Imagine a lovely summers' evening of music on the Paddock by the Windrush.

Cogges Community Children's Choir is an exciting new project giving our local children an opportunity to join together making music with regular performances in some of the beautiful settings around Cogges and beyond.

We are incredibly fortunate to have some very talented professional musicians in the parish who are willing to dedicate themselves to the project.

The plan is to start rehearsals in September - please contact **Lianne Poyser** on **01993 705833**.

God in the Life of...

Moonyeen Littleton

"I was born in Wokingham and brought up in London by my mother. To escape the bombing raids of WWII I was sent to boarding school. At age 17 my formal education ended and with it the sheltered life of school and our capital!

So I took a job as dentist's receptionist and learned to welcome patients, make tea and count the laundry. All for £2.50p per week. My mother's fragile health meanwhile continued to deteriorate for the next 3 years, and as I reached 21 and she only 47, she died.

About two years before this loss occurred I had begun to make friends with young people who had a vital Christian faith. Through them I discovered that Jesus is a person we can know here and now and he invites us to join him for a lifelong relationship. In the company of my new friends I learned about prayer and about the importance of keeping a

daily time with God; and I listened to the accounts of older Christians tell about their service for him. The buzz word was commitment, and as a newly committed Christian myself I wanted to put God first in my life-time choices of career and marriage.

That was where my dreams of overseas service for Christ began. Eight years later, in 1962, I sailed for India to work as a secretary on the administrative team of a missionary society. My first year was spent in language study. I worked for an hour a day just on how to produce their wonderfully strange phonetics, and I learned to write the Deva Nagri Script ("like hanging

washing on a line"), and to enjoy Indian music ("like a bee in a bottle")! I had to learn lots more too about relating sensitively to a totally different culture, and discovering that 'saving face' included sometimes Indian friends saving mine.

Half-way through my eighteen years in India the Society seconded me to a Christian magazine publishing in Bombay, and I learned the whole gamut from writing articles to reading galley-proofs. There I stayed until 1980 when without warning the Indian Government cancelled the visas of hundreds of expatriates and I found myself back in UK looking for direction. The experience was a blow as powerful as a bereavement. However, in time, in God's good time, a new door opened. I went on to Egypt in the same occupation, magazine editing, and was privileged once again to put roots down into another rich culture, this time Arab and Muslim. All Easterners are generous with hospitality, but the Arabs must take the prize, particularly welcoming foreigners. Almost daily, as I was out in the streets, strangers would call to me, "Welcome to Egypt!"

Retirement finally came in 1998. A Christian Charitable trust enabled me to rent a house in Witney where my long-time friend Margaret Wardell, had already settled. Before I searched for housing I used to pray for a terraced house flush with the pavement – so that I could make friends with neighbours, passers-by and school children. I tell you, I'm rich in answers!

When you reach 72 you expect some loss of health and mobility and mine is a dependence now on supplementary Oxygen. But thankfully there's lots I can do. And I may sometimes be seen mopedding down to the shops with an O2 Cylinder sticking out of the basket!

Hope to see you.

Moonyeen Littleton"

Nigeria Harvest project...

Some of you may know that Nigeria has the highest percentage of malnourished children in Africa.

You may also know that Naomi Chappell who was an early years teacher at Blake school went to Nigeria to set up a school. This is going well.

In Nigeria to get good food school children grow and look after their own crops.

Our Harvest project at St. Mary's this autumn will be to supply seeds and tools to manage the land. The money raised will be sent to Nigeria and the necessary equipment bought there.

Information about the harvest plans will be available nearer the time.



Youth Pastor...

Sam Travis

"Oh boy, my first challenge is to not make this the most boring thing you've ever read. When I was first asked to write this article I tried to decide on my plan of attack. Do I go all 'Miss World'? 'My name is Sam, I love all animals and I look good in a swim suit.' Hmm, maybe not! What about Catchphrase? 'My name is Sam, I'm from Manchester and my wife's name is...' Well I don't actually have a wife so that doesn't work.

I guess honesty really is the best policy, in which case I'm a short Mancunian with a big nose and I'm here in Witney for 12 weeks working as a youth pastor at Cogges Church! I'm on my summer break after just completing the second year of my three year Theology degree at the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester and am raring to get stuck into some practical youth work in the area. My main roles this summer are organising and running the Cogges holiday club in July (all the info. is in this magazine!), helping out with all the children and youth ministries in the church, getting involved with drop-in and detached work at Base 33, and any other things that need doing!

This is the third time I have lived in the area, although I'm afraid to say that my northern accent hasn't dumbed down at all, making me the focus of ridicule

and blank expressions whenever I speak! I originally moved here for a year in 2002/2003 to do a gap year with a Christian adventure activity company based on the edge of Witney, called Adventure Plus. I then returned to work for them last summer for three months, during which time I attended Cogges church and after talking to the vicar, Andrew Sweeney, a few times about my future and where he saw the church going we decided to give this summer a go. And the rest, as they say, is history! If this summer works out then I may be returning for a longer period of time once my degree is done and dusted.

Well, that's me. Please introduce yourself to me if you see me around, I'll probably be driving a red car that always looks like it's very far away, when in fact it's just incredibly small.

Sam Travis



We hope to be back in the church by **13th August**.

| 2 nd July | | 3 rd Sunday after Trinity |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| St Mary's @ Cogges Church Centre | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, South Leigh | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| 9 th July | | 4 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's @ Cogges Church Centre | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, South Leigh | 9.30am | Morning Prayer |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 11.00am | Family Communion |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 6.00pm | Celebration |
| 16 th July | | 5 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's @ Cogges Church Centre | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, South Leigh | 9.30am | Family Service |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 11.00am | Family Worship & Baptism |
| St John's, Hailey | 6.00pm | Joint Service |
| 23 rd July | | 6 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's @ Cogges Church Centre | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, South Leigh | 9.30am | Family Communion & Baptism |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| 30 th July | | 7 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's @ Cogges Church Centre | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, South Leigh | 9.30am | Morning Prayer |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| 6 th August | | 8 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's @ Cogges Church Centre | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, South Leigh | 9.30am | Morning Prayer |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| 13 th August | | 9 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's @ Cogges Church Centre | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, South Leigh | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 11.00am | Family Communion |
| 20 th August | | 10 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's @ Cogges Church Centre | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, South Leigh | 9.30am | Family Service |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 11.00am | Family Worship & Baptism |
| 27 th August | | 11 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's @ Cogges Church Centre | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, South Leigh | 9.30am | Family Communion |
| St Mary's @ The Blake School | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| 3 rd September | | 12 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James | 9.30am | Morning Prayer |
| St Mary's | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| St Mary's | 6.00pm | Evening Prayer |
| 10 th September | | 13 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| St Mary's | 11.00am | Holy Communion |
| St Mary's | 6.00pm | Celebration |
| 17 th September | | 14 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James | 9.30am | Family Service |
| St Mary's, Harvest Festival | 11.00am | Family Worship & Baptism |
| Cogges Manor Farm Museum | 4.00pm | Harvest Thanksgiving |
| St Bartholomew's, Ducklington | 6.00pm | Joint Service |
| 24 th September | | 15 th Sunday after Trinity |
| St Mary's | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| St James, Harvest Festival | 9.30am | Family Communion |
| St Mary's | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| St Mary's | 6.00pm | Holy Communion |