

At the Foot of the Cross

On each Sunday evening during Lent we have used the devotions called Stations of the Cross at St Francis. To focus on the Cross is not an easy thing to do; this service is not a popular one, but for the small number of us who come along there is something important about doing this.

On the one hand it is a central part of our Christian faith and teaching. If you look at the Gospels you will find a hugely disproportionate amount of space dedicated to our Lord's Passion and the Cross. St Paul in his writings recalling his ministry among the early Christians at Corinth reminds them that he 'decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified'.

This is perhaps the single most amazing truth about the Christian Gospel - that God, in the person of Jesus Christ, died on the Cross to save the whole of humanity.

We cannot ignore this and remain true to our faith; we cannot hope to begin to understand God's love unless we take the Cross into account; we cannot hope to become more Christ-like in our own lives unless we are prepared to kneel at the foot of the Cross.

And yet, if it were possible, the Cross has even more for us than this. For the Cross is the sign that reminds us that God shares in our sufferings today and every day. He is there with the child who cries out in poverty and hunger; He is there with the powerless who suffer violence, injustice and oppression at the hands of others; He is there with

those in torment and anguish, the despised and the rejected; He is there sharing the burden, enduring the pain.

On Palm Sunday when we follow the Stations of the Cross I try and use contemporary pictures from the daily press to illustrate the 14 stations. There is never a problem finding enough material; the difficulty is always that of which graphic pictures to select and which to omit. For the way of the cross which our Lord Jesus walked 2000 years ago is being walked every

day by people around the world now - and that way is still being shared by Jesus. For me this particular Sunday is always the most difficult, for the way of the Cross becomes a present day reality.

And yet, in the midst of all this suffering - by our Lord, down through the centuries, in our world today - amongst all the anguished cries of hurt,

amongst all the violence and the bloodshed - and yet, there is hope. Hope which came 3 days after the Cross. Hope, indeed promise, that suffering and pain, violence and injustice is not the end. Love has the ultimate victory; Love will prevail.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

Fr. John



Chronicle

Healing Services

St James Church

Wednesday 23rd April

7.30 pm

St Francis Church

Tuesday 7th May

7.00 pm

Anyone who would like prayers for themselves, or for others, or who would like to join us in praying for God's healing work is welcome.



HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF WAR AGAINST IRAQ

Military action against Iraq has the potential to lead to a serious worsening of the humanitarian situation. This will demand more extensive collaboration between military and humanitarian planners than was experienced during the war in Afghanistan. So warns the Church of England's Community and Public Affairs Unit (formerly the Board for Social Responsibility).

In a recent submission*, to the House of Commons International Development Committee's inquiry into potential humanitarian consequences of war against Iraq, the CPAU says, "Sanctions and ration systems have already created huge humanitarian problems. The initial impact of any military action is likely to aggravate these problems."

Christian Aid will take the lead in humanitarian efforts on behalf of its sponsoring Churches, while the Church of England has also encouraged mission agencies with a presence in the region to be ready to provide emergency assistance.

The submission also calls for attention to be paid to the minority Christian Churches and their

Sundays @ Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock

April 6th *Looking to the Cross*

May 4th *Taizé Worship*

June 1st *Waiting on the Word*

July 6th *Evening Praise*

August *no service*



Morning Prayer

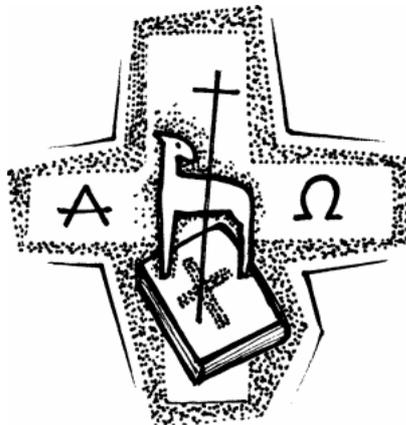
& Breakfast

St Francis Church

Saturday Mornings

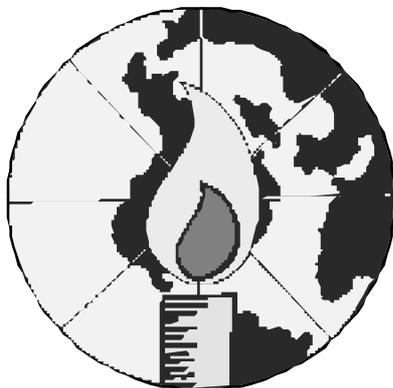
9.15 am

all welcome



communities inside Iraq. 'Their situation could worsen severely if they are seen by those of the majority faith to be agents of a Western Christian assault on an Islamic people.'

The submission concludes: "the Church of England has already taken steps to examine its own possible contribution to any humanitarian effort... the Church of England is in regular contact with the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf as well as the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. It is hoped that the Church will therefore be in a position to continue to help meet some of the needs of both these dioceses. "Coventry Cathedral's Centre for International Ministry is considering what resources it can make available to assist in building inter-religious dialogue within Iraq following any conflict. Taken together these are important resources, which the Church of England believes will have benefits beyond the purely humanitarian."



Holy Week and Easter at Saint James

PALM SUNDAY – 13th April

10.00 am Palm Sunday Procession
and Eucharist - *meet in The Hut*

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Reflection

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Reflection

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Reflection

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 17th April

7.30 pm The Maundy Supper
9.00 pm The Watch in St Luke's Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY – 18th April

10.00 am Family Service –
followed by Hot Cross Buns
2.00 pm The Last Hour –
music, readings and address

EASTER DAY – 20th April

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Family Eucharist



Annual Meetings

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

THURSDAY 10th April 7.30 pm in St James Church
Elect your Churchwardens and Church Council members; look at our finances; and hear where we are going as a parish

ST FRANCIS CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Thursday 1st May 7.30 pm *following the Eucharist*

ST JAMES CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday 6th May 7.30 pm

Be involved in electing your church representatives, our review of the last year, and our thinking about the next year



Rosanne interviews Tony Olley

Picture, if you will, a young lad on Saturday afternoons, once the family grocery store was closed, venturing out into the Rhodesian bush with his parents in khaki clothing, to hunt for the meat for Sunday dinner. Then picture a small house near Florence Park, Cowley, where a gentleman shops, cooks and cleans for himself. What an amazing journey Tony has made through his 75 years of life. Well, there's much more to tell I promise you.

His roots are deep in the English county of Norfolk where his forebears were very much involved in the mustard producing company, Colemans. After the First World War, though, his father emigrated to South Africa where he already had a family connection. Out there he met and married an English girl and they opened a grocery store in Fort Victoria. Tony was their only child. In early 1930s, times were hard and it was expected that he would earn his three penny-piece pocket money by helping in the shop. How long it took to save up for a much-desired drop handle bar bike which cost £1/10shillings!

He was educated by English teachers in the small local primary school and at 11 became a boarder at R.C. St. George's secondary school. There the Jesuit regime was very strict. However, after three years, his father realised he has leanings towards technical and practical subjects and despite a financial struggle paid the fees to send him to technical college in Johannesburg. On leaving the college Tony took up a carpentry apprenticeship. It was at about the age of 15 that he fell in love. He waited till he was 21 to propose, she accepted and their marriage lasted 10 months. Polio robbed him of his childhood sweetheart and he told me it took five years of loss and loneliness before he came through the experience.

He was living in a small flat and working as an architectural draughtsman when a mutual friend introduced him to Phyllis. She had left her secretarial post in London and was living in the flat above him. They were married in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) but in 1964 as the result of the economic collapse of the country they migrated

to South Africa. They lost everything they had including a couple of houses they owned by then. So at 36, with £500 to his name, Tony had to make a new start. He worked in the building industry studying after hours in order to qualify as an architect through the Royal Institute of British Architects in London. He went on to gain his masters degree and later studied economics, law and psychology. He became a part-time lecturer at Pretoria University. As a partner in one of South Africa's prestigious architectural practices he worked on several major, award-winning buildings.

Believing the doctors who told them that it was impossible for them to have children, he and Phyllis adopted a baby. The little boy turned out to be severely retarded. Andrew is now living in a home for retarded adults in South Africa. After 16 years of marriage though, the miracle occurred and Phyllis gave birth to baby Paul. Tony's pride and delight is clear to see when he speaks of his son, now 30 years of age, happily married and living nearby in Abingdon. There were several reasons

why he and Phyllis chose to return to England after his retirement. They were keen to be near Paul, they shied away from black political leaders removing all support for European culture in order to emphasise Afro-culture, they hated violence (which was impending) and they wanted a brand new adventure. Not that they were short of adventures, they had made world-wide travel their driving force second only to their close relationship with God. The travelogue of countries visited during their 44 years together is stunning. Tony lost his beloved Phyllis to cancer in 2001. He says his Christian faith has enabled him to master the tragedy and now he lives an extraordinary busy life. He broadens his foundations of faith and personal development by attending lectures, courses and reading. The man many of us know at St. James' also has the knack of telling great jokes – something, he told me, he learnt as a small boy growing up in South Africa.

Was there an incident in your early life which held special significance for you?

At St. George's College with the Jesuits I was accused of stealing a blazer badge. (I had cut an old one off my blazer and left it in my locker) The Rector came into prep session and accused me in front of

everyone. I was 'gated' and had six 'cuts'. I was never asked about it. I wrote to my parents and the Rector admitted his mistake but he never once apologised.

What sort of child were you?

A well-behaved boy but that incident changed me – after it I became really obstreperous.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

I was Christened and Confirmed in the Anglican church because my parents thought it "the right thing to do". When I met Phyllis she sorted out a church. She went every Sunday, I went every other. For me finding God has been a very gradual process.

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

I have enjoyed my entire life – I can genuinely say I am a person who does not believe that the world owes me anything!

Are there any aspects of modern life you dislike?

Now that I am in retirement and not in business I severely criticise the extreme shortage of time people give to each other.

What's best about life today?

The advancement of knowledge which former centuries were denied.

Good political forces are at work to redistribute wealth and education.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I love still developing my mind – reading and going on courses. Currently I'm interested in studying my faith and also British history.

What makes you laugh?

I love jokes and I miss this in England because it is not part of your culture. In South Africa there is always a joke going round.

If you had a Holy Wand what would you change?

I would take whatever action is appropriate to teach people to love each other more.

If you were not doing what you do now, what would be the alternative?

I wouldn't change a thing.

What do you hope to be doing in ten years' time?

Ditto!



Holy Week at Saint Francis

Holy Week is a vital part of the Church's year. The whole congregation is encouraged to share with us as we recall, encounter, and seek to enter deeply into the events of this critical period of our Lord's life and work.

PALM SUNDAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.30 am Parish Eucharist and Procession
5.30 pm Stations of the Cross
6.15 pm Silent Prayer before the Cross

Monday in Holy Week

9.30 am Holy Eucharist
8.00 pm Night Prayer & Address

Tuesday in Holy Week

8.00 pm Night Prayer & Address

Wednesday in Holy Week

9.30 am Holy Eucharist
8.00 pm Night Prayer & Address

MAUNDY THURSDAY

10.00 am Children's Activity Morning
7.30 pm Sung Eucharist followed by
The Watch until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY

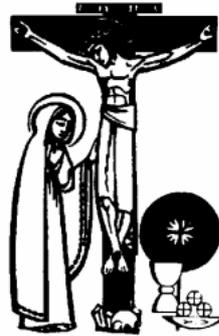
10.00 am Children's Activity Morning
11.15 am Way of the Cross - for young people - of all ages
2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY

9.15 am Morning Prayer (followed by breakfast)
7.30 pm The Easter Vigil

EASTER DAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.30 am FAMILY EUCHARIST



Jesus said to his disciples - "Watch, and pray"

ARK DE TRIUMPH?

An inspector, examining a class in religious knowledge, asked the following question of a little girl, intending to catch her out: "What was the difference between Noah's Ark and Joan of Arc?"

He was not a little surprised when the child, answering, said: "Noah's Ark was made of wood and Joan of Arc was maid of Orleans."



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE CRISIS IN IRAQ

Events in Iraq are moving swiftly this Spring. Many Christians worldwide are praying as the situation unfolds. You, too, may feel moved by your concern to pray. We offer here some ideas which may help you as you focus your prayers:

To begin with, Christian leaders* across the country have suggested that Christians who want to pray might begin by "humbly coming before God in worship, declaring his Lordship over the nations of the world; to ask his forgiveness for the ways we in Britain have contributed to the current situation in Iraq and in the Middle East and to pray for his kingdom to come."

The areas for focussed prayer include:

Wisdom: for all in leadership in the nations involved, the weapons inspectors, the United Nations, the armed forces, the aid agencies preparing to help;

Justice: for Saddam Hussein to stop oppressing the Iraqi people, for a way forward to be found to bring freedom to Iraq and the Middle East;

Peace: for Saddam Hussein to publicly disarm, for those working for a peaceful settlement in Israel and Palestine;

Truth: that the real issues behind this current situation would be revealed; the truth regarding the nature of weapons in Iraq to be made public;

Unity: between the nations and agencies involved (NATO, European Union, United Nations, UK and USA) so that an agreement can be reached;

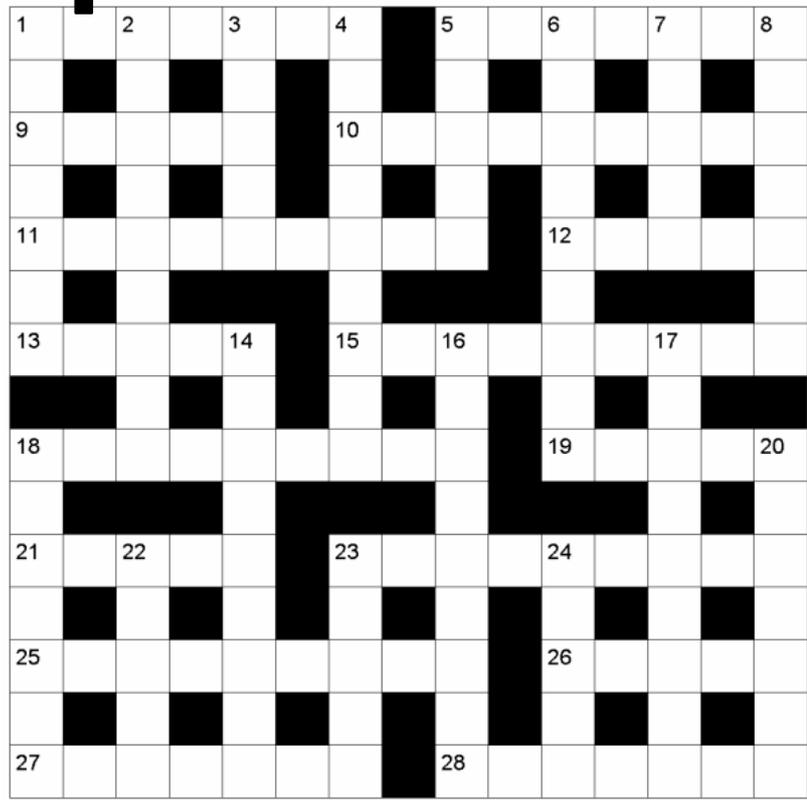
Protection: for the people of Iraq and the Middle East, the Christian Church in Iraq and Middle East, the armed forces already in the region;

God's sovereign overruling: between all leaders, in the Christian and Muslim dialogue in the Middle East, and for many to find faith in Jesus Christ.

Christian leaders recognise that of course there are many differing views as to what should be done with regard to 'war with Iraq'. But all of them want to commit themselves to pray for a just and peaceful outcome to the crisis. And Hebrews 4:16 encourages us: 'Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.'

* *These Christian leaders come from all the main-line Christian UK churches, including Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, URC, and Salvation Army. In this instance they are speaking with one voice from the Evangelical Alliance.*

April's Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 A good point for a speaker (7)
- 5 Not highborn (7)
- 9 Distributed cards (5)
- 10 Full of festering inflammation (9)
- 11 Greek goddess of love (9)
- 12 Muslim soldier (5)
- 13 Beyond what is usual (5)
- 15 Study of holy paintings or images (9)
- 18 Birth (9)
- 19 Garments (5)
- 21 Paid earnings (5)
- 23 The state of low repute (9)
- 25 Nation holding a legal authority (9)
- 26 Cutting part of an ice skate (5)
- 27 Narrow scarf (7)
- 28 Diary (7)

DOWN

- 1 Proceed in rays (7)
- 2 Pasta (9)
- 3 Rate (5)
- 4 Funeral director (US) (9)
- 5 Cavalry weapon (5)
- 6 Transgressor (9)

- 7 Red wine area in Spain (5)
- 8 Fate (7)
- 14 Helper (9)
- 16 Elated (9)
- 17 Not to be omitted in music (9)
- 18 Reporter (US) (7)
- 20 Ship's deck exposed to the rays (7)
- 22 Arising from a gene (5)
- 23 Humiliate (5)
- 24 Taxi driver (5)

March's Solution



Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>)
	Family Service (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
11.15 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
6.00 pm	Evening Service <i>[1st Sunday of the month]</i>

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00 am	Holy Eucharist
10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>

Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	8.00 pm	St Francis Discussion Group – <i>4 Long Close</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
	10.10 am	Mothers and Toddlers – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist - followed by coffee – <i>St James</i>
	11.00 am	St Francis Prayer Group
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	7.00 pm	Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i>
Saturday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast – <i>St Francis</i>

Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Confessions and Home Communion can be made with any of the clergy.

Days Off

Stephen has Friday off, Fr John and Mark have Monday. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and two out of three Sundays

Parish Directory

TEAM RECTOR:

The Revd Stephen Hartley,
Cowley Rectory,
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Email: stephen.hartley
@btinternet.com

TEAM VICAR:

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Email: fj@care4free.net

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Email: mark.harris@rl.ac.uk
The Revd Sr Margaret Anne
All Saints Convent
St Mary's Road
Tel: 249127

LICENSED LAY MINISTER:

Eric Uren
Tel: 770696

CHURCHWARDENS:

Gwen Ranklin
Tel: 451417
Norah Shallow
Tel: 765199

DEPUTY WARDENS:

Rosanne Butler
Tel: 453257
Pat Chung
Tel: 767124

HALL BOOKINGS

OFFICER:
773620

weekdays only