

Reasons for Hope



Bishop Richard, who retires this month, recently wrote his last letter to his clergy. Here is an extract:

Being ordained today is not easy, and there are particular pressures on clergy. Anthony Russell, formerly Bishop of Dorchester and now Bishop of Ely, in his book *The Clerical Profession*, brings out how the role of the clergy has changed dramatically from the 18th century to our own times. In the 18th century, clergy found their validation as "an appendage of gentry status". In the 19th century, as a result of the professionalisation of many traditional, rather amateur occupations, and the two revivals, the evangelical and Anglo-Catholic, the clergy began to be trained for the job and be professional at it. Tony Russell argues that there has been an even bigger change from then until our own time. For now we are enablers, catalysts and inspirers of what is essentially a voluntary movement.

Clearly that requires particular gifts of leadership and results in special kinds of pressure. In addition to this we now live in a society dominated by consumer attitudes, attitudes which have steadily encroached into the religious sphere. So people now have expectations which they want met, and sometimes a strong sense of entitlement. We cannot simply impose the Church's agenda on people.

Despite all the pressures, we are continuing to witness, in our different ways, to that which is supremely worthwhile, the love of God in Jesus Christ and his presence with us through the Holy Spirit. Furthermore,

while it is very easy to get depressed by the difficulties, perhaps more good things are happening than we are recognising or acknowledging. Recently I reflected on all the parishes in the deaneries of Oxford and Cowley, the ones where I have hands-on responsibility as a bishop. Although there are a very few that have had to swim very hard against the tide simply in order to remain where they were, the vast majority of the parishes seemed to me to be in a better place now than they were 19 years ago, with many significant achievements during that period. Jesus told the parable of the seed growing secretly. One of the evidences is this secret growth in the way some Christian individuals suddenly receive affirmation in the press. Most recently there has been the forgiveness offered by the parents of the murdered teenager Anthony Walker and by Abigail Witchell, who was so severely injured by her attacker. While severely paralysed, she clicked through blinking eyes the words

*Still silent body
But within, my body sings,
Dancing in love-light.*

Here is a prayer which Brother Roger of Taizé wrote for January this year before his tragic death.

*Christ of compassion,
You welcome us with our gifts
and with our frailties.
And by your Holy Spirit
you liberate, you forgive,
You bring us to the point
of giving our lives for love.*

+ Richard

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Chocolate at Easter

Chocolate. Just a mention of the word can trigger off all kinds of emotions: craving, greed, passion. Few foods have the ability to get such a hold on people. As you buy your Easter eggs and bunnies and whatever else this month, here are some of the facts of chocolate:

Where does chocolate come from?

Chocolate is made from the seeds of the tropical cacao tree, theobroma cacao. The Greek word 'theobroma' means literally 'food of the gods'. The Cacao Tree is found in Latin America, where temperatures are between 25 and 28 degrees.

Who first discovered it?

The Aztecs. The cacao beans were used to prepare a hot, frothy beverage with stimulant and restorative properties, something like hot chocolate.

Who was (probably) the first chocoholic?

The Emperor Montezuma. He drank 50 goblets a day of the frothy drink.

Who used chocolate as currency?

The Aztecs. 100 cacao beans would buy a slave; 12 cacao beans bought the services of a courtesan, etc.

When did chocolate as we know it today begin?

Surprisingly, not until 1879. That year Rodolphe Lindt had the inspired idea of triglyceride cocoa butter. The cocoa butter in chocolate contains saturated fat, but a normal level of consumption doesn't have any bad effects.

At what point does a chocolate lover become a chocoholic?

It is generally considered to be when a person feels impelled to consume 12 or more 60 gram bars of chocolate per week. Chocolate contains its own cannabinoid (a chemical that prolongs pleasurable sensations) and when you eat chocolate, there is an increased blood

flow in areas of the brain which are also activated by addictive drugs such as cocaine. But scientists agree that occasional over-indulging will cause no long-term problems... except perhaps around your waistline!

Get the best from your chocolate:

1. Keep your chocolate cool (16 – 18 degrees Centigrade) and in a dry, airtight place.
2. Never put your chocolate in the fridge (if you already have, let it warm to room temperature for a couple of hours before you eat it).
3. Bring out the full flavour of chocolate by drinking water with it.
4. If you are drinking tea or coffee, don't bother with expensive chocolates – you won't be able to appreciate them properly!

Counting the cost:

Snickers: one 61g bar: 311 calories

Crunchie: one 41g bar: 193 calories

Mars: one 42g bar: 190 calories

Twix: one single 29g bar: 144 calories.

Bounty one funsize 29g bar: 141 calories

Milky Way one 26g bar: 118 calories

Kit Kat: one 12g finger: 61 cal

Calories in chocolate per 100 grams:

Milk chocolate: 588

Dark chocolate: 544

Cocoa powder: 452

Cocoa: 417



Ministry of Healing Services

A monthly service alternating
between St James and St Francis Churches

Thursday 6th April 7.00 pm at St James Church

Thursday 11th May 7.00 pm at St Francis Church



ANNUAL MEETINGS



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Thursday
20th April 7.30 pm
in St James' Church Centre
Elect your Churchwardens, and
Church Council members; look at
our finances; and hear where we are
going as a parish

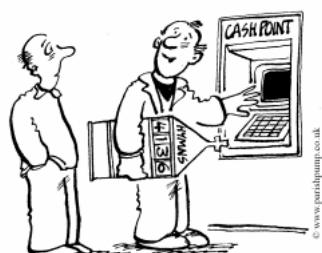
ST JAMES CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday 7th May 11.30 am
following the Sunday Service

ST FRANCIS CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday 7th May 12.00 am
following the Sunday Service

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



*...between you and me, it's the
only way I can remember my PIN number!*

Holy Week and Easter at Saint James

PALM SUNDAY – 9th April

**10.00 am Palm Sunday Procession
and Eucharist - meet in the Centre**

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 13th April

**7.30 pm The Maundy Supper - Church Centre
9.00 pm The Watch in St Luke's Chapel**

GOOD FRIDAY – 14th April

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

EASTER DAY – 16th April

**8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Family Eucharist**



Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...

Letter from St James the Least of All

On the perils of small study groups

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are about to run an *Alpha* course in your parish; I am sure your bishop will be delighted. I remember him from my Oxford days. He was just starting his course as a gangly undergraduate when I was finishing my doctorate on Eusebius.

I recall him as a keen rugby player who took early morning dips in the Isis, who led intense discussions on Saint Paul's theology of "the body" over cups of cocoa in the evenings in his rooms and who spent his holidays laying paths for the National Trust in the Lake District while lodging in Youth Hostels. He's exactly the sort of person who will empathise with your ministry – hearty, enthusiastic and overflowing with compassionate intensity. We were not close friends.

We tend not to go in for those sort of things here at St. James the Least, preferring matters a little more relaxed and understated. If we ever do hold discussion groups (and they are a regrettable necessity during Lent), they always start with a good lunch, finishing with coffee and one of Mrs French's excellent Madiera cakes. Once we have removed from the

table, those who manage to stay awake will start to tackle the chosen topic.

However, we always seem to veer off to discussing more interesting matters, such as why Col. Chorley is never allowed to sing solos in the choir any more, or who moved Mrs Cholmondeley's flower arrangement from the font the previous week. Apparently she has given notice that her weekly contributions on the plate will be much reduced unless an appropriate apology is received.

These matters may not seem as important to you as deciding what the "sardine stone" in Revelation 4 is all about, but let me assure you that to members of our congregation, knowing why the second verse of the National Anthem is no longer sung at our Remembrance Services is of pivotal importance.

At 2pm we wake up those who have enjoyed an hour's slumber and totter off home, knowing we have once again done our bit for faith in the parish.

I am sure your own group will also return home after your sessions - even if a digestive biscuit and weak tea is all that has been offered – invigorated and braced to tackle the heathen in the parish. We all take our pleasures in different ways.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Amazing

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Isaac Watts

What do they teach them in school these days?!

The following excerpts are 10 and 11 year-old answers to history tests and Sunday school quizzes. They were collected over a period of three years by two teachers. Read carefully for grammar, misplaced modifiers, and of course, spelling!

Ancient Egypt was old. It was inhabited by gypsies and mummies who all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandos. He died before he ever reached Canada but the commandos made it. Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines. He was an actual hysterical figure as well as being in the bible. It sounds like he was sort of busy too.

The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a young female moth.

Socrates was a famous old Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. He later died from an overdose of wedlock which is apparently poisonous. After his death, his career suffered a Dramatic decline.

In the first Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits, and threw the java. The games were messier then than they show on TV now.

Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out "Same to you, Brutus."

Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonized by Bernard Shaw for reasons I don't really understand. The English and French still have problems.

It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood.

Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking.

Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper which was very dangerous to all his men.

The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter.

Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hotel. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Since then no one ever found it.

Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backward and also declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." He was a naturalist for sure. Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.

Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf that he wrote loud music and became the father of rock and roll. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up.

Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits but I don't know why.

Charles Darwin was a naturalist. He wrote the Organ of the Species. It was very long, people got upset about it and had trials to see if it was really true. He sort of said God's days were not just 24 hours but without watches who knew anyhow? I don't get it.

Karl Marx was one of the Marx Brothers. The other three were in the movies. Karl made speeches and started revolutions. Someone in the family had to have a job, I guess.



Saint Anselm (1033–1109)

April 21st

Anselm is a good saint to remember next time someone asks you to prove that there is a God. His brilliant and original *Proslogion*, written 1077-8, sets out the ‘ontological’ proof for God’s existence. Nearly ten centuries later, it is still studied by theological students as one of the great philosophical ‘proofs’ of God’s existence.



Anselm was born at Aosta, the son of a spendthrift Lombard nobleman, whom Anselm detested. In time he decided to

become a Benedictine monk, and joined Lanfranc’s famous monastery at Bec (c. 1060). He became prior, then abbot. He was loved by his monks, appreciated for his sensitivity and intuitiveness. He remained friends also with Lanfranc, who had gone on to be Archbishop of Canterbury. After his death, Anselm reluctantly agreed to accept the job.

Archbishops did not have press offices in those days, but Anselm made his views on Church-versus-King known all the same, and they did not please the king. William Rufus exiled him in 1097 and King Henry I exiled him in 1103. Anselm was utterly committed to what he saw as the cause of God and the Church, and had no time for temporal politics. Peace between archbishop and monarch was not achieved until 1106.

Anselm spent the rest of his life in England. His theological stance of ‘Faith seeking understanding’ and the mind at faith’s service were the keys to his life and teaching.

CELEBRATING GWEN RANKLIN’S

21 YEARS AS CHURCHWARDEN

Saturday 13th May 7.00 pm

St James’ Church Centre



All are welcome to come to this party during which the parish will show its appreciation to Gwen as she retires as one of Churchwardens.

Holy Week and Easter at St 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

- 10.30 am Parish Eucharist and Procession
5.00 pm Stations of the Cross

5.30 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday in Holy Week

7.00 pm Eucharist and Silent Prayer before the Cross

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 7.30 pm The Maundy Supper at St James Church Centre
9.30 pm The Watch until Midnight at St Francis

GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.00 am Children’s Activity Morning
11.30 am Way of the Cross
- for young people - of all ages
2.00pm Good Friday Service

HOLY SATURDAY

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

EASTER DAY

- 10.30 am SUNG EUCHARIST

SHAGGY DOG STORY

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, all of them between 10 and 12 years of age.

The group surrounded a dog. Concerned lest the boys were hurting the dog, he went over and asked "What are you doing with that dog?"

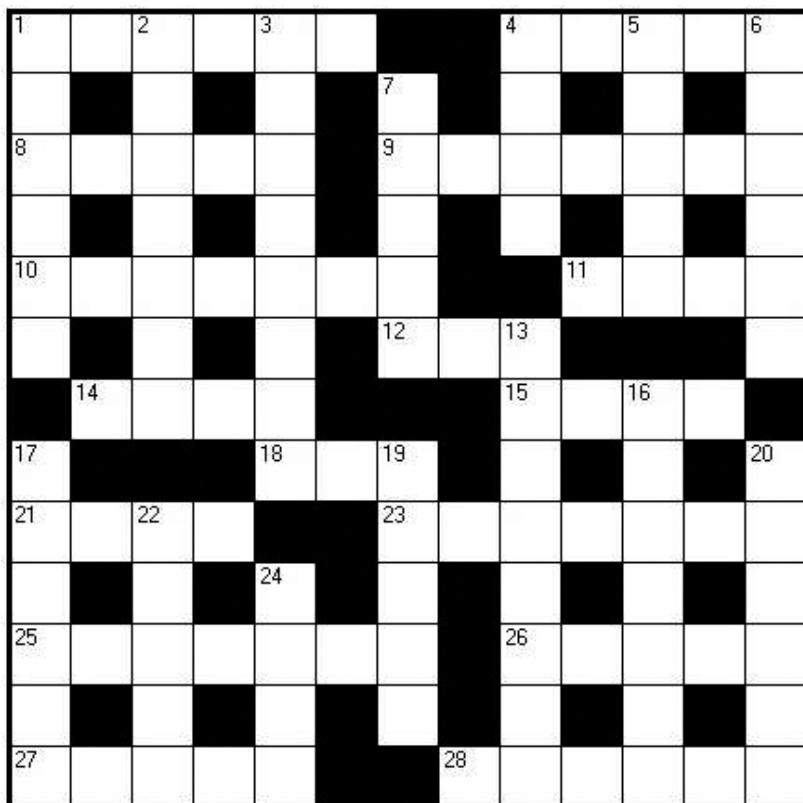
One of the boys replied, "This dog is just an old neighborhood stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog."

Of course, the minister was taken aback. "You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!" he exclaimed. He then launched into a ten minute sermon against lying, beginning, "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie," and ending with, "Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie."

There was dead silence for about a minute. Just as the minister was beginning to think he'd gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."



April's Crossword



Across

- 1 ..take a widow's raiment to
(Deut 24.17) (6)
- 4 Seven of them go with seven lamps
in Zechariah ch. 4 (5)
- 8 Sacred song (5)
- 9 Like the piece of fish given to Jesus
in Luke ch. 24 (7)
- 10 Give absolution (7)
- 11 Jacob held on to this part of Esau
at their birth (4)
- 12 Proverbs ch. 22 advises us not to
do this to the poor (3)
- 14 ..thou shalt make fifty loops on
the ____ (Ex 26.10) (4)
- 15 Garden mentioned in Joel ch. 2
(4)
- 18 He impregnated his own daughters
in Genesis ch. 19 (3)
- 21 One corn stalk bore seven of
these in Genesis ch. 41 (4)
- 23 _____ not against me (Mic 7.8)
(7)
- 25 Woman also called Dorcas in
Acts ch. 9 (7)
- 26 Where is God my ____? (Job
35.10) (5)
- 27 He was angry with David in I
Samuel ch. 17 (5)
- 28 Beast (6)

Down

- 1 Tree under which incense is
burned in Hosea ch. 4 (6)
- 2 Went by, like time (7)
- 3 Doctor of the law in Acts ch. 5 (8)
- 4 Such a man is better than a liar,
according to
Proverbs ch. 19 (4)
- 5 ..let them give us _____ to eat
(Dan 1.12) (5)
- 6 Type of seat mentioned in Leviticus
ch. 15 (6)
- 7 The king wept at his grave in 2
Samuel ch. 3 (5)
- 13 In Genesis ch. 35, his mother
called him Ben-oni (8)
- 16 Son of Hilkiah in 2 Kings ch. 18
(7)
- 17 But we were _____ among you
(1 Thess 2.7) (6)
- 19 Paul had a vision here in Acts
ch. 16 (5)
- 20 Seabird supposedly deriving its
name from St Peter (6)
- 22 Teacher of Jewish law (5)
- 24 Wound with a knife (4)

March's Solution



Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (exc 2nd Sunday)
	All Age Eucharist (2nd Sunday)
1.00 pm	Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am	Parish Eucharist [Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]
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Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	10.00 am	Toddler Group – St Francis
	2.30 pm	Parish Mothers' Union - St James (3 rd Mon)
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	10.00 am	Seashells Baby & Toddler Club - St James
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – St Francis
	12.00 pm	Eucharist - St James
	12.30 pm	Tuesday Lunch Club- St James
	2.30 pm	Friends of St Francis - St Francis (2 nd & 4 th)
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	2.30 pm	Tea Break - St Francis (1 st Wed)
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	11.00 am	St Francis Prayer Group
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
	7.00 pm	Eucharist - St Francis
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
	7.00 pm	Friday Club – alt Fridays at St Francis
Saturday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast - St Francis

sDay Off

Stephen has Friday off. Except in emergency, please try and respect this day of rest. Lorne can be contacted in the evenings and at weekends.

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