

Parish Director

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES
Team Rector:
 The Revd Stephen Hartley,
 Cowley Rector y,
 Beauchamp Lane
 Tel: 747680

Team Curate:
 The Revd Vernon Orr
 Bens on Cottage,
 Beauchamp Lane
 Tel: 779666

Licensed Lay Minister:
 Eric Uren
 Tel: 770696

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY
Team Vicar:
 Fr John Tomlins on,
 St Francis' Vicarage,
 2 Meyseys Close
 Tel: 748915

Associate Priest:
 Fr Peter Stanway
 22 Colleywood
 Kennington
 Tel: 739342

COWLEY ASIAN FELLOWSHIP
 Fr Wazir Chand
 Tel: 714160

CHURCH WARDENS:
 Gwen Ranklin
 Tel: 451417
 John Shreeve
 Tel: 717987

Deputy Wardens:
 Iain Johns on
 Tel: 779261

HALL BOOKINGS OFFICER:
 between 5.00 and

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Sung Eucharist
 6.00 pm Evening Praise
[4th Sunday of the month]

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY
 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
 10.30 am Parish Eucharist
[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]

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 James</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>
	10.30 am	Pram Service – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</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>
	7.30 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>Benson Cottage</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	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast – <i>St Francis</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist – <i>St James</i>

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

Days Off
 Fr John, and Vernon have Monday as their day off; Stephen and Fr Peter have Friday off. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest.

February 2000

What's in the a Future?

Recent headlines about falling Church attendance may make us despair. Every denomination is facing the same dilemma. We live in a rapidly changing society. In an age when we can receive 20 or 30 television channels into our living room; when families rarely eat together round a table; when people can order their weekly groceries from Tesco's over the Internet: is it any wonder that the Church struggles to gain the attention and respect?

The millennium celebrations proved that after all the razzmatazz, life continues as it always has. Yet we believe that the God who has created and sustains our world longs to reveal himself to his people. Sooner or later the mirage of materialism and consumerism will evaporate. As throughout history, so in the future, men and women will turn back God - but will the Church be the place where He will be found?

We need be under no illusion that the vast majority see the Church as largely irrelevant except at critical times. Can we expect people to walk through the doors of our churches unless we have something of real importance to offer something that is radically different?



People no longer want to belong to clubs or societies as they did. People no longer want to be told how to live their lives. The Church cannot exist any longer relying on its former glory.

The Church fails to attract because we have lost something. No amount of tinkering with the services or pandering to a secular society will add a single person to our ranks. Only God at work in the hearts of his people though his Spirit can bring about a change in the spiritual life of our nation..

At the heart of the Church is the life of the risen Lord. Central to the life of the Church and to each individual Christian must be an awareness of Jesus at work in the world and in our lives. It is this awareness which can be a life changing experience for those who are prepared to create the time and space. The believing Christian is called to share what he or she knows to be true of God with others.

But we must not be downhearted - the Church world-wide is growing. It is only in Western Europe that a decline has set

The monthly magazine of the Cowley Team Ministry

Chronicle

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 3RD MARCH

St James Church

2.30 pm Speaker: Lynn Trainor

St Francis Church

7.30 pm featuring "Stand Up and be Counted" performed by young people from St Francis Church

All are welcome to these Ecumenical Services which have been devised by women in Indonesia



Kennington & District United Church Choirs

**VIVALDI'S GLORIA
BRAHMS' GERMAN REQUIEM (in English)**

**Saturday 15th April
3.00 pm in St Francis Church**

SORRY!

A sincere apology to Elfreda Dubois, our December interviewee, for misspelling her name. Her reply to the question about aspects of modern life she dislikes was mistyped by the computer! Elfreda dislikes SLOPPINESS in the way the world uses words, misspellings and careless pronunciation.

Healing Service

Wednesday

23rd February 7.30 pm

St James Church

Receive Jesus' promise of healing through personal prayer



Sunday Evening Praise

Worship, teaching, prayer ministry in an informal setting.

**Sunday 5th March
6 o'clock**

Sunday Evening Praise Services will be on the 1st Sunday of the month



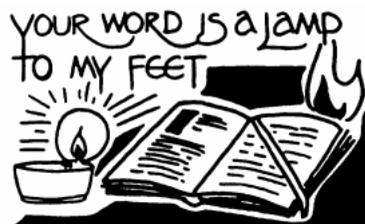
morning prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church

Saturday Mornings

9.15 am

all welcome



THE HELPING HAND

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took the small boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked NO ADMITTANCE." When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her son was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing."

Then leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerised.

That's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't exactly graceful flowing music. But with the hand of the Master, our life's work truly can be beautiful.

Next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You can hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing."

Feel his loving arms around you. Know that his strong hands are playing the concerto of your life. Remember, God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called, and He always will be there to love and guide you on to great things!



NEW SERVICES FOR A NEW CENTURY

The Church of England is revising its modern language services.

WHY CHANGE THE SERVICES?

Worship is always on the move. God may not change, but in every generation we find new ways of expressing ourselves to one another and to God. Sometimes we change the way we think about God and about the world, and that also needs to be reflected in our worship. For instance, how many of us could now sing, 'The rich man at his castle, the poor man at his gate, he made them high and lowly and ordered their estate' - the original words of the last verse of All Things Bright and Beautiful? When the Book of Common Prayer contained the Church of England's only forms of service, worship was fixed for hundreds of years. Yet people found other ways of adding variety and expressing themselves in new ways - they added hymns and songs, began to use the organ to accompany the singing, used rituals and actions, and added extra services, such as Carol Services and Harvest Festival. This century has seen a lot of thinking and experimentation with new services.



This culminated in the services in the Alternative Service Book 1980 (ASB). But this book comes to the end of its authorization at the end of 2000, and so the church has taken the opportunity to consolidate its thinking and produce fresh services.

- There are some other specific reasons to change:
- There has been some fresh thinking, especially about the Christian year, about the use of the Bible in worship and about baptism and Christian beginnings.
- A lot of extra material has been produced since the ASB (such as Holy Week and Easter services and material for All Age services). It's time to consolidate all of that experience.
- Some parts of the ASB have worn a bit thin, or proved to be rather weak (such as the Funeral Service, which is rarely used as it is printed).

CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY

Some of the new services contain radical new material, others (such as Holy Communion) are gentle revisions of the ASB. All are designed to make Church of England worship flexible enough to fit the local situation, but stable enough to retain a sense of 'family likeness' within the Church of England (and with other Christians too). From 1 January 2001 the Church of England will have two sources for its worship: the Book of Common Prayer (which is untouched by the revision) and the new services, known collectively as Common Worship.

The title itself tells us a lot:

- First, it is not a book. It is a collection of services and resources which will be published in books, as separate booklets, on simple cards, on computer disk and on the internet.
- Secondly, it emphasises the important part worship plays in expressing our unity. The Church of England tries to balance local responsibility for worship with a sense of belonging to the wider church.

The other key factor about the new services is that they have no 'sell by' date. Unlike the ASB these services are authorized until it becomes obvious that it is time to think again - whether that is after ten years or one hundred.

WHEN?

Some of the new material is already available - for instance, the new lectionary and the new baptism services. Other material is currently going through the process of being agreed by the General Synod, where our representatives hone and refine each service to try to get it as right as they can. All the main services should be in their final form by early 2000 and will be published later in 2000. In the meantime, watch this space for updates on the new services.

LENT 2000

Ash Wednesday – 8th March *the beginning of Lent*

LENT LUNCHES

This year the Lent Lunches at Saint James will be on **Tuesday** at noon beginning on March 14th. The Eucharist is followed by a simple lunch of soup, bread & cheese, fruit, tea or coffee. Proceeds will go to the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

LENT TALKS

A Lent Course has been arranged by the Oxford Diocesan Renewal Fellowship in Thame on Monday evenings. Transport is available to those who would like to share in these sessions which include worship and a talk.

March 13th	Getting God's Guidance	<i>Bishop Mike Hill</i>
March 20th	Dealing with Disappointment	<i>Ann Holt</i>
March 27th	Growing and Developing	<i>Steve Thomas</i>
April 3rd	Transformed by the Spirit	<i>John Leach</i>
April 10th	Praying the Kingdom	<i>Martin Cavender</i>

Mike Hill is Bishop of Buckingham

Ann Holt Director of CARE

Steve Thomas is Senior Pastor of Oxford Community Churches

John Leach is Director of Anglican Renewal Ministries

Martin Cavender is Director of Springboard the Anglican Evangelism Initiative

Please contact Stephen if you would like to go to these gatherings.

LENT BOXES

This year's Lent Boxes will raise money for the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

NIGHT PRAYER

Each Thursday evening at St Francis Church at 9.45 pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This tradition devotion following the journey of Jesus from Jerusalem to Calvary takes place in St Francis Church on Sunday evenings at

Rosanne interviews



When you get into conversation with Clare the over-riding impression is one of a calm, organised person who enjoys her life as she is living it at the moment. And then you think, "Well, she's jolly well got to be calm and organised or she'd never get through her day!" A vicar's wife, who gets involved in

parish life, a mother of three active teenage boys and a full time teacher of a large reception class - how does she do it?

"Things happen and you just get on with it," was one of her comments. So that's her secret coupled with the fact that she is married, she says, to a calm and patient man.

Clare is a Hampshire girl who grew up near the sea and went to school in Havant. She had a very successful school career both academically and in sport. She shone in athletics especially in such events as 100m, 200m and long jump. She became Schools County Champion and represented the City of Portsmouth in Junior AAA competitions. She ran in Germany and Gibraltar as part of Portsmouth "twinning" celebrations.

It is not surprising that she also represented her school at hockey and finally became Head Girl. Then off she went to university in Newcastle-upon-Tyne to study sociology and social administration. There she met and fell in love with a certain John Tomlinson. He was reading civil engineering. Clare's course at university, though useful and interesting, was a complete mystery, she says, because the idea that she was studying to become a health service administrator was just a small bee in her bonnet. She realised, through a course on educating the deaf, that what she really wanted to do was teach.

However, she and John graduated and within a week were married. He found a job in Carlisle while Clare stayed in Newcastle to do her post-graduate teaching diploma. It must have been hard for a young married couple to be separated in that way but, Clare says, the vacation and weekends were great!

In 1981 her first baby, Will, was born in Folkestone where John was, by now, working with the Dover Harbour Board. She gave up her secondary school teaching to become a full time wife and mum. Her other two sons came along and a move to Didcot brought a new development into her life.

As a family they had always been involved in the life of their local church. Clare says that her faith has been part of her life for as long as she can remember. In 1986 the Revd Chris Hewetson was running a "Vocation Day" to which he invited the Tomlinsons to "make up the numbers". For a whole year afterwards, whilst working for Thames Water, John thought and prayed about his vocation. Preparation for ordination followed.

This is when life changed for Clare because she explained, John, understandably, received much attention. She and the boys, as a new priest's wife and family, felt rather left out. In fact she was lonely. She hastened to add that she doesn't feel like that now. She is very happy here. She loves her new Vicarage and enjoys the sense of community that Cowley generates.

Whilst at their former parish, Hagbourne, she found her way back into education and says that teaching younger children gives her a real buzz. She has just taken up a post in a brand new school in Didcot where she has a class of 25 5-6 year olds who keep her very much on her professional toes.

Was there one particular person who had a strong influence on your early life?

My mother. She is very patient, reliable and powerful. She also has an amazing sense of humour.

What sort of child were you?

Very secure, a happy, outgoing child with lots of friends. I was, and still am, an avid reader. At about the age of eight, I opened an account at a local bookshop with book tokens and my pocket money.

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

I've enjoyed it all, whatever I'm doing at the time. I never long for what's coming next.

Are there any aspects of modern life which you dislike?

I am concerned about the "green" thing - the eating up of the countryside. Increasingly I meet people who feel constrained to go to work and miss out on the time when their children are at home. They miss so much.

What is best about life today?

Electric light, flush toilets and the bin-men! Where would we be without them?

When you find time for leisure how do you spend it?

Going on "birding" walks with John. Reading, I'm never without a book. *Sense and Sensibility* is my comfort blanket. I love the classical novels of Trollope, Dickens, the Brontës and so on, though I do read modern novels too. Music, playing the piano and also listening to light-to-middlebrow classics. Cooking is the only creative thing I do - it's good because you never wonder where to put it!

What makes you laugh?

People who take themselves too seriously. I do like absurdity.

If you had a magic wand what would you change?

I would make people listen to each other.

If you were not doing what you are doing now what would you choose to do?

I'd like to write a book, perhaps a children's novel.

What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

Probably be involved in education.

Clare Tomlinson

