

Parish Directory

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES

Team Rector:
The Revd Stephen Hartley,
Cowley Rectory,
Beauchamp Lane
Tel: 747680

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

Licensed Lay Minister:
Eric Uren
Tel: 770696

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY
Team Vicar:
Fr John Tomlinson,
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

CHURCHWARDENS:
Gwen Rankin
Tel: 451417
John Shreeve
Tel: 717987

Deputy Wardens:
Rosanne Butler
Tel: 453257
Pat Chung
Tel: 767124

HALL BOOKINGS OFFICER:
773620
weekdays only

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Sung Eucharist
6.00 pm Evening Praise
[1st 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

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|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – St James |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – St James |
| Tuesday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – St James |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – St James |
| | 8.00 pm | St Francis Discussion Group – 4 Long Close |
| Wednesday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – St Francis |
| | 9.30 am | Eucharist – St Francis |
| | 10.10 am | Mothers and Toddlers – St Francis |
| | 10.30 am | Pram Service – St James |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – St Francis |
| Thursday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – St James |
| | 9.30 am | Eucharist - followed by coffee – St James |
| | 11.00 am | St Francis Prayer Group |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – St Francis |
| | 7.00 pm | Eucharist – St Francis |
| | 7.30 pm | St James Prayer Group – Benson Cottage |
| Friday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – St Francis |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – St James |
| | 7.00 pm | Friday Club – alt Fridays at St Francis |
| Saturday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – St James |
| | 9.15 am | Morning Prayer & Breakfast – St Francis |
| | 9.30 am | Eucharist – St James |

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.

July 2000

That the World Might Believe

The entire human genetic code has recently been discovered by scientists - each one of us is a combination of 3.1 million sub units of human DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) that underpin our human life! Wow! I don't pretend to understand it all (and the diagrams in my newspaper didn't help much) but I praise God that he has created us so intricately, and, with such a combination, it's no wonder that each of our DNA is unique. We are all different, and that makes life much more interesting. Differences can be good, giving a greater mixture and complementing each other's gifts. Differences can cause conflict, as we are wary of those who are not like us and think differently.

In the weeks after Trinity Sunday the Church reflects on how God the Father, Jesus God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are different yet have a perfect unity. Jesus prayed for us that we might be one just as he and the Father are one. Consequently, Christians prize unity very highly; it is a gift from God, not something we can produce ourselves.

Even the Apostles however, the original founders of the faith who were instructed personally by Jesus, had disagreements but always strove to reach agreement and maintain the unity that is this gift. St Paul wrote to the Church in Ephesus "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace".

Before I went on holiday I was at Blenheim Palace for the huge Pentecost Celebration and was greatly heartened by the sense of unity there. Then when I was away, as well as reading some lighter paperbacks, I read the autobiography of Charles Finney the great American Evangelist of the 19th Century. He saw great revivals and yet found that where there was disunity the work of God was severely hindered.

St Paul reminds us, again in his Letter to the Ephesians, that it's not simply flesh and blood (and different DNAs) we struggle against in our individual lives and our life together, though they can cause us problems enough! No, discerning Christians will, on occasions, see the work of the devil and the forces of evil seeking to undermine our unity and our witness to our community. Watch and pray!



Vernon

The monthly magazine of the Cowley Team Ministry

Chronicle

St James Patronal Festival

Tuesday 25th July

PATRONAL EUCHARIST

7.00pm

Preacher: The Revd Peter Bradley

Vicar of All Saints, High Wycombe

followed by Party in The Rectory Garden



James and his brother John were sons of Zebedee and fishermen from Galilee - the 'sons of thunder', as the gospel writers describe their impetuous characters and fiery tempers.

James stands out on three accounts: he was one of the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus took him, along with Peter and John, to 'watch' with him in the garden of Gethsemane. Finally, he went on to be the first apostle to die for the Christian faith, when in AD 44 King Herod Agrippa put him to the sword in Jerusalem at Passover time.

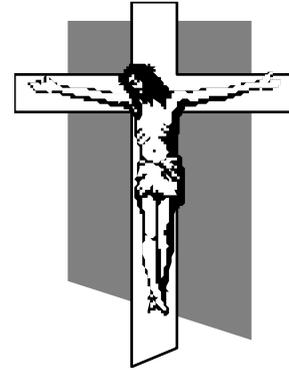
In the centuries following his death, James became associated with the evangelising of Spain, and as a powerful defender of Christianity against the Moors. The heyday of the cult of Santiago de Compostela was from the 12th to the 15th century, and the pilgrimage to Compostela became one of the most important of medieval Christendom. This in time transformed the iconography of James, and his emblems became the pilgrim's hat and the scallop-shell of Compostela. Over 400 English churches have been dedicated to James.

CRUSE

When elderly people die, their spouse is often left very lonely indeed. This is where CRUSE comes in. Found in 1949 because there was no bereavement counselling in Surrey, it now has 200 branches nation-wide.

Bereavement counselling is an important service. Good listeners are needed and they must be able to cope with tears and anger. But bereavement visitors must be careful not to let the bereaved become too dependent personally on them, or to thrust unwanted information and help on them. A good rule of thumb seems to be a visit every fortnight for a couple of months, with visits lasting no more than an hour.

If you would like to contact CRUSE, either as a bereaved person yourself, or if you would like to help as a counsellor, please contact them on Oxford 245398



There were some very powerful crowd scenes that gave one a very real sense of anger and disturbance and the crucifixion scene was most realistic and moving.

The guttural sounds of the German language lend themselves easily to shouting and rage, but perhaps not so much to gentleness and quiet scenes. Someone in our party made the point that not enough of the gentle side of Christ's nature was portrayed in the part. In the programme's introduction the writer asks the question "The Passion Play - An Indictment of Judaism or a Mirror of Ourselves?" It comes to the conclusion that the play is a mirror of the present for cast and audience alike, historical elements are minimised in favour of universally valid patterns of human behaviour. Certainly the members of our own party came to the play at various

stages of their lives and spiritual development, and with quite differing expectations of what they would get out of it. They came away in quite a subdued fashion with the eternal Easter message ringing in their ears and a feeling that we have all got to put a lot more into our Christian mission to the world.

HOLE FOR ONE

A golfing priest, after having been beaten by an elderly parishioner, returned to the clubhouse somewhat depressed. "Cheer up," said the layman. Remember, you'll eventually be burying me some day." "Yes," said the priest. "But even then it will be your hole!"

A Promise for All Time

The Oberammergau Experience by John Shreeve

How many of us manage to keep our promises to God even for a few years, let alone honour a commitment made by our ancestors over 300 years ago? Yet that is exactly what the people of the small Bavarian village of Oberammergau have continued to do over many years. When the dreaded plague (The Black Death) reached their village in the 1600's some 85 people died in a very short time. Faced with the possible extinction of their small community the village elders held a crisis meeting in their church. They prayed to God that if their village was spared further decimation they would express their thanks by presenting a dramatic story of the Passion and Death of our Lord, in perpetuity. From that day on the deaths ceased and the rest of the village was spared. And so the famous Passion Play of Oberammergau was begun and has continued every 10 years from that time onwards. It has been of such high quality that it has become famous and Christians from all corners of the world come to see the performances. With that sort of background it was inevitable that the Millennium 2000 production would draw widespread support. Therefore Marlene and I considered ourselves fortunate indeed to be able to join a pilgrimage with tickets to this venue.

One of the most interesting facts is that the villagers have still continued to keep their playing and production within the family, so to speak, in spite of the pressures that international fame has brought them, and the expectations of a sophisticated and sometimes critical audiences. To qualify for a place in the cast one has either to have been born in the village, or to have lived there for over 20 years. They are all amateurs in the acting world (many hold down very ordinary jobs) yet they give a very professional performance consistently right through from April to October in the given year. Whole families involved in one way or another. In the house where we stayed, the father was working in reception at one of the gates and the son was playing in the orchestra.

So it was that on a beautiful sunny morning, on Pentecost Sunday, that we wended our way towards the theatre to see the performance. Remembering their Bible passage in Acts and hearing their different languages spoken, it all seemed very appropriate we thought.

One thing is certain, the villagers not only keep their promise, but do it in some style, with considerable expertise and nothing is stinted. The whole play lasts some six hours - three in the morning and three in the afternoon, with a longish break in between. To get people to sit still and quiet, for that length of time, for a production that is for many of them in a foreign language, is no mean achievement. Written translations are provided with the programmes, but really are a mixed blessing, if one is to concentrate purely on the stage. The drama covers the entire story of the passion from Palm Sunday right through to the Resurrection.

The audience of over 3000 people sit in a covered auditorium, but the stage is in the open air.

Music and singing play a large part in the production though the words and text are spoken by the actors. This year at the music was superb and the performance of the highly disciplined choir was excellent. Costumes all produced by some six of the village ladies were very original and colourful.

St Francis Church Malmesbury - Glastonbury Pilgrimage



24th - 26th July

Calling all young people!

Would you like to join us on our next pilgrimage walking from Malmesbury to Glastonbury?

We will walk, sleep on hall floors, have simple meals, spend time together - and have a good time!

Want to come, or want to know more? - speak to Fr John.

Healing Service

Wednesday 19th July

7.30 pm.

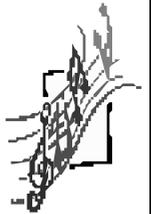
St James Church

Receive Jesus' promise of healing through personal prayer



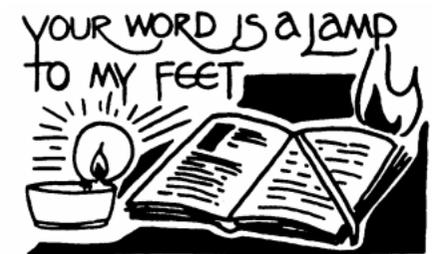
Sunday Evening Praise

Worship, teaching, prayer ministry in an informal setting.
Sunday 6th August 6 o'clock
Speaker: Sr Celia Jones CA



morning prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church
Saturday Mornings
9.15 am *all welcome*



Una Dean Interviews



We thought it time Rosanne Butler was interviewed for the Chronicle so I volunteered. Rosanne is Deputy Church Warden at St James' and is enjoying a happy retirement with husband Frank - retired from paid work but very busy.

Rosanne was born in Surrey, an only child. Her father was a carpenter, she was proud that he

worked as Jesus did and from an early age she handled tools and wood. She was taught Christianity by her parents but was not taken to Church, she thought Church was for weddings and knew nothing of Sunday services. While in her push chair Rosanne was machine-gunned by a German Stuka and she and her mother were dragged under a coal cart for protection. The pilot went on to kill a young mother who had thrown herself over her twin babies to shield them from the bullets. The family were evacuated to Northmoor after this and when Rosanne was rising five she was enrolled in the small village school where she was very happy and from where she passed the 11+ to Witney Grammar. When she was 8 years old an 11 year old boy from the village brought some wood for her father. His name was Frank Butler.

On Ascension Day the school went to Church and Rosanne was entranced, she loved the Church, everything about it appealed to her and soon she was going to Sunday Services with a friend and later persuaded her mother to join her. In her teens she started and ran single-handed a Sunday School, she had no experience but it was very successful. By the time Rosanne was eight she was teaching the infants to read and she felt a strong call to become a teacher. She pursued this aim and went to Goldsmiths College in London and she knows her parents made sacrifices to keep her there. They were immensely proud of their daughter's achievements.

In the meantime her friendship with Frank flourished and they corresponded while he was in the Army. For three and a half years they did not meet as Frank was sent straight from Kenya to the emergency at Suez. When he returned home they found their friendship was still strong and they were married in 1959. Rosanne pursued her teaching career at various schools including the old St James' School and ending up at Donnington Middle where she taught for 22 years. First a daughter and then a son did not deter her from her calling as a teacher.

Rosanne's hobbies and activities took my breath away. She and Frank set up and still run the Summer playscheme at St Christopher's School where Rosanne is a dedicated Foundation Governor; she is 'mad' about sport, especially football; she loves cooking and entertaining; loves music especially jazz about which she is knowledgeable; she embroideres; writes; reads avidly; belongs to the Mothers' Union; likes talking to people; likes nice clothes; is interested in all forms of art; 'adores' flowers - all this as well as being Deputy Warden, organising the Historic Churches Bike Ride; serving on the PCC; helping with Alpha and doing lots more within the Parish. We all remember the shows that Rosanne wrote, directed and produced for us.

I asked the standard questions, Rosanne knew what was coming and had thought about her answers -

Who, from your early years, has been a role model?

My village school teacher, she was wonderful, I had a brilliant education there.

What particular incident do you remember?

Going to Church on that Ascension Day.

What sort of child were you?

Very happy, solitary but never lonely.

When was a good time for you?

When I was 50 I was in top form. I did a course at Westminster College; I led the Arts in Schools for Donnington; I featured in an ITV programme about my class at Donnington; I created a wild garden - it was a good time, challenging, fabulous, a culmination of my career.

What do you dislike about modern life?

(Vehemently) I hate sloppy, disrespectful manners. Wearing scruffy clothes and dirty shoes, speaking sloppily, eating on the hoof and in the street, the lazy way some people behave.

What do you like?

Public Health - the hygiene laws for food; the vaccinations against horrible diseases; no smoking areas; a cleaner environment; a higher expectation of health.

Hobbies?

SPORT, holidays, travel, flying and all high places, jazz - lots and lots of hobbies.

NB Frank was in the room at this time.

What makes you laugh?

Frank! (*No hesitation*). We laugh together, perhaps that is what has kept us close. We laugh at pompous people, understated silly things, the unexpected.

If you had a holy wand ... ?

I would change the world's attitude to children, so that all adults, all over the world, valued their children.

If you were not doing what you are doing, what would you be doing?

I am very happy as I am. I would like to be slimmer.

What do you think you will be doing in ten years' time?

A useful Grandma, teaching my grandchildren to read. I would like to be writing, perhaps a novel.

Rosanne Butler

