

## Parish Directory

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES

**Team Rector:**  
The Revd Stephen Hartley,  
Cowley Rectory,  
Beauchamp Lane  
Tel: 747680  
Email: stephen.hartley@btinternet.com

**Team Curate:**  
The Revd Vernon Orr  
Bens on Cottage,  
Beauchamp Lane  
Tel: 779666  
Email: vernon.orr@lineone.net

**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  
Email: fj@care4free.net

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

CHURCH WARDENS:  
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

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>
	12.00 pm	Prayer Meeting – <i>Bens on Cottage</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.

November 2000

## In the Beauty of Holiness

Worship should be at the very heart of our lives - both personally and corporately. For as creatures made in the image of God, we can only become truly and fully ourselves as we continue to seek and draw close to God who is the source of all our being.

As we come before God in all sorts of times and places, we do so also in all sorts of different ways - because we are all different.

That means that corporate worship, when we come together as God's church, is always something of a balancing act - unless we want to appeal to only a small section of the community.

The Church of England, as most of you will know by now, is introducing some new services for use from the beginning of December: these services come under the title 'Common Worship'. In some ways these services, too, are something of a balancing act - an attempt to provide additional material for use in the liturgy allowing increased flexibility and variability, but at the same time providing a constant and recognisable structure to our worship throughout the Church of England. Some of the new material is just that - new; much has also been used widely already, including in our parish.

One thing is certain - the changes will be far less dramatic than the previous change from the Book of Common Prayer to the ASB. One thing we hope for - that using material from these new services will enrich our worship.

Both St James' and St Francis' Church Committees have spent a lot of time discussing 'Common Worship' and, although services at each church may be slightly different, they will both have the same recognisable structure.

In order to provide for both continuity and freshness in our worship it is likely that we will both be using slightly

different services during the main seasons of the Church's year. This will allow us to use some of the new material within the same overall format.

We hope that by using the new services our worship will be enriched and help us as we seek to draw close to God and to sense his presence with us.

May God help us ever and always to remember for what we strive - to worship him in the beauty of holiness.



*Fr. John*

*The monthly magazine of the Cowley Team Ministry*

# Chronicle

Coming to Cowley

RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY

present

## "FRIENDLY FIRE"

Cowley Parish Hall, Wednesday 6th December. 7.30pm

*Riding Lights are a Christian Theatre Company with a national reputation - and they have accepted our invitation to perform in Cowley. This is not to be missed! - SIGN UP IN CHURCH TODAY invite family and friends. Further information from Gwen Rankin, Margaret Chapman or Fr John.*



## Healing Service

Wednesday 22nd  
November 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**  
**3rd December**  
**6 o'clock**



## Growing in the Eucharist

St Francis Church

Sunday 19th November

10.30 am

*all welcome*



## Remembrance Sunday

12th November

THE EUCHARIST

with the

ACT OF REMEM-  
BRANCE

10.00 am St James



*Lest we forget*

## JUBILEE BRASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 25th November

7.30 pm

The Parish Hall

Tickets £4.00

concs £2.00 inc refreshments

*proceeds divided between Jubilee  
Brass and Church Funds*

The Parish Autumn Draw will be drawn during the  
interval



St Francis Church

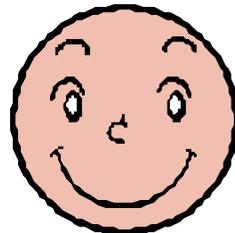
**ADVENT SERVICE OF LIGHT**

6pm Sunday 3rd December



### AS FOR THOSE SIGNS FOUND OUTSIDE CHURCHES:

- Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!
- No God-No Peace. Know God-Know Peace.
- Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!
- Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: For fast relief, take two tablets.
- When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too.'
- A singing group called 'The Resurrection' was scheduled to sing at a church. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the minister fixed the outside sign to read, 'Resurrection is postponed - due to snow.'
- Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. next Wednesday in the church lounge. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- Thursday at 10 a.m. there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All those wishing to become little Mothers are welcome to meet our new minister in the vicarage....



### TIME'S UP

They say that time flies. Stephen, our Team Rector, arrived in Cowley on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1995. He was licensed by Bishop Richard to serve as Team Rector for a five year period. Now that his licence is soon to expire the Bishop of Oxford has written to Gwen Ranklin, the Lay Chairman of the PCC, to ask her to convene a meeting of the PCC to discuss whether Stephen's licence should be renewed for the new longer period of seven years. The Bishop has also written to Fr John for his views.



The Church Council will discuss Stephen's future at its next meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Church Council will have the opportunity to hear from Stephen his vision for the parish and to ask him any questions. Stephen and all the other clergy will then leave the meeting and so enable the lay members to have their own discussion and come to a conclusion.

If you have any views as to whether Stephen should continue a Team Rector, then please speak with either Gwen Ranklin or John Shreeve, our Churchwardens.

# 70

### St Francis Church 70th Anniversary - 2001

Might you be interested in coming on pilgrimage to Assisi next year? If so, come to a meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 14th November at St Francis Vicarage to discuss this possibility. (If you are interested but can't come to that meeting please speak to Fr John.)

### OXFORD SLEEP-OUT

Did you know that 60+ people sleep rough in Oxford each night?

A group of young people will be fund-raising for our city's homeless by sleeping out at St Francis Church on the night of 17/18 November. Please support us financially by sponsoring us. Further details from Fr John.



# Rosanne interviews



Life is full of firsts but when I made a date to interview a married couple for the first time I did rather wonder how it would work. I needn't have worried for Stella and Ranford, happily married for over 42 years, know each other so well that they can tell their story (at least since they met in 1957) with one voice and spiced with lots of humour. When Stella arrived in England from her home in Barbados to live with her cousin in a large house in London Ranford had

already taken a room in the same building. He had been working on the railway since he made the long journey from Jamaica the year before. He fixed his eyes on Stella from the start and told me he waited till she gave him "the nod". Then he knew he had made a conquest. Soon after their marriage in 1958 Stella gave up her job at Guy's Hospital, which she had much enjoyed, because their first baby, Patricia, was on the way. Oxford was considered a prosperous place to work at that time so Ranford came here and sought employment with the bus company. Unable at first to find anywhere to live he travelled the long journey between Brockley in South East London and Oxford each day. Finally he found a room to rent in Chester Street and lived there during the week. They told me of the heartbreak they suffered each Sunday evening as they parted. Eventually the little family were settled in Oxford and with more living space two more children were born, first a daughter, Jacqui, and then a son, Robert. In 1977 they moved into Oliver Road where the children grew up and where Stella and Ranford continue to live.

Ranford explained the huge contrasts between suburban Cowley and his boyhood home. One of six boys, all expected to help at home, he often went to sleep during afternoon lessons. He says he was about average at school but loved to play football barefoot on the beach and "bat-and-ball" which, of course, was street cricket. His passion for both games remains undiminished despite his incapacity. He is a total sports fan.

It was while he was working at Morris and had been sent to Longbridge on business that Ranford suffered a severe brain haemorrhage. Stella spoke movingly of how her active husband almost died and of the miracle that gave him back to her. They are both quite sure that the prayers of friends and family were instrumental in saving his life. When I arrived at their house he was on his knees wielding a dustpan. He also helps with the vacuum-cleaner and, amazingly, grows wonderful vegetables and flowers in his garden.

Stella grew up in Barbados, one of seven children. She had intended to use her skill with a sewing needle in her career. She became a seamstress but changed directions, took up nursing, and settled in Oxford qualify it as a psychiatric nurse at the Littlemore Hospital. She worked there for over 32 years. Although she has now retired the nursing bank still chases her for help. The couple are very proud grandparents and currently enjoy supporting their eldest grandson who plays regularly for The Oxford United Youth Team.

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

R My dad. He had been to America twice, he was a farm worker and he made me want to better myself. I think I wasn't homesick when I came here because of him.

## Can you remember an incident in your early life which was specially significant to you?

S. I shall never forget when I was 13. I fell over the handlebars of my bicycle, broke my thumb and it's never been the same since!

## What sort of child were you?

R I was a bit naughty to my mum. When I was about ten I spent a lot of time playing bat-and-ball and football on the beach.

## Has your faith been with you since childhood or did you find it later in life?

S We were all brought up in the Church of England. I grew up within the church. When I was a little girl I sang in the choir and later I taught in Sunday-School.

R Stella brought me into the Church and I was confirmed at St Francis.

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

S. I enjoyed working. I liked the independence and the satisfaction of bringing up the children at the same time.

## Are there any aspects of modern life which you dislike?

S&R The trouble that's happening in society with young people especially those involved in crime. Life is very hard for them.

## What is best about today?

S The excellent health care Ranford gets for which he's very grateful. We also like to give our grandchildren little treats. We took them to Disney World this year and that was wonderful.

R I enjoy being able to give my grandchildren more time than I could give my children.

## How do you spend your leisure time?

S. I love shopping (spending money!) and my singing.

R Gardening and growing my own vegetables, and my sport.

## What makes you life?

S&R Our little grandson. When we laugh at him he says, "What's so funny?" and makes us laugh even more.

## If you had a magic wand what would you change?

S I'd like to be slimmer! R I'd like to be able to get around more.

## If you were not doing what you do at present what would you choose to do?

S&R We'd like to travel more but it's not easy....

## What do you look forward to in ten years' time?

S&R Hopefully we'll still be together cheering on our grandson, Kevin, in his professional football career.

*Stella & Ranford  
Atkinson*

