

## 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 – 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
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – Benson Cottage
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – St James
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
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.

# chronicle

## Opportunity Knocks!

A couple of people have told me that they have taken the plunge and acquired a mobile phone. Viewed as either a curse or a necessity, two-thirds of the population now have access to one. Email and the internet are transforming communication. Things are changing at an alarming rate.

It is not just technology that is changing. Society is changing too. Those common values which were once held by many are now much more diverse. What was once regarded as a 'normal' pattern of family life is now being challenged by a variety of alternative lifestyles.

There is no longer a moral consensus. In such times of tremendous change, it is not surprising that the Church is facing an enormous challenge.

The status of the Church within society has diminished. The voice of the Church is largely ignored. The relevance of Church is widely questioned.

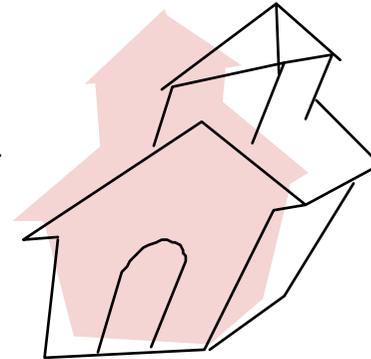
For three days last month, Fr John and I went away to spend time with others, trying to discern what the Holy Spirit might be saying to the Church in such difficult times. The institution of the Church has become unattractive to many in spite of the increasing numbers of those seeking God. One thing seems certain, the Church is

being led by God to discover different ways of being the Body of Christ in the world.

At the heart of the Church, right from its very beginnings, is community. Men and women, committed to each other who loved and supported one another as Jesus had done with those closest to him. The Church of tomorrow will also include small groups of believers, often beyond the established congregation, bound together by a common desire to explore the richness of God's love revealed by Jesus and lived out by those called to be Christians.

Those of us brought up within the traditional Church have to rise to the opportunities being presented by the present age. The Church is

evolving and the Spirit is leading us along diverse paths. As God reassures us through his prophet, "Don't be afraid! I'm doing a new thing!"



## Winchester to Portsmouth Pilgrimage



**Mon 23rd - Wed 25th July**

### Calling all young people!

Would you like to join us on our next pilgrimage walking from Winchester to Portsmouth?

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.

## Chronicle Sports Column

There was an old clergyman so besotted with cricket that he occasionally said 'Over' instead of 'Amen'. On one celebrated occasion he walked from the lectern having proclaimed in ringing tones: 'Here endeth the second innings.' When he had a parish hall built, he had signs for the doors, one which said 'Out' and the other 'Not Out'. He even liked to preach on the game and his favourite texts were: - 'Peter stood up with the eleven and was bold' (Acts 2.14) and 'I caught you by guile (2 Cor 12.16)...drinking in the pavilions.' (1 Kings 20.12)



## Healing Service

Tuesday 31st 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 5th August**  
6 o'clock

**Speaker: John Chorlton**  
Vicar of St Aldate's



## 'Alpha: will it change their lives?'



A ten-part series will be shown on TV screens across the UK from July. The series, presented by Sir David Frost, follows one small group all the way through their Alpha course at Holy Trinity Brompton, and includes extracts of Nicky Gumbel's talks. It will be screened on Sunday evenings and is scheduled to start on 29 July, with the final episode shown on 30 September. It will go out either before or after the late ITV news, so video recording may suit some.

It's a wonderful opportunity for those who are non-churchgoers to see what Alpha's all about, before coming on a course. Do let's invite our friends to watch. And then invite them to one of our Alpha or Emmaus courses

### Footprints in the Sand

Imagine you and the Lord Jesus are walking down the road together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, rarely varying the pace.

**A Follow Up** But your footprints are a disorganized stream of zigzags, starts, stops, tumarounds, circles, departures, and returns.

For much of the way, it seems to go like this, but gradually your footprints come more in line with the Lord's, soon paralleling His consistently. You and Jesus are walking as true friends!

This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens: Your footprints that once etched the sand next to Jesus' are now walking precisely in His steps. Inside His larger footprints are your smaller ones, you and Jesus are becoming one.

This goes on for many miles, but gradually you notice another change. The footprints inside the large footprints seem to grow larger. Eventually they disappear altogether. There is only one set of footprints they have become one.

This goes on for a long time, but suddenly the second set of footprints is back. This time it seems even worse! Zigzags all over the place. Stops. Starts. Gashes in the sand. A veritable mess of prints.

You are amazed and shocked. Your dream ends. Now you pray: "Lord, I understand the first scene with zigzags and fits. I was a new Christian; I was just learning. But you walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk with you."

"That is correct."

"... And when the smaller footprints were inside of Yours, I was actually learning to walk in Your steps; followed you very closely."

"Very good. You have understood everything so far."

"...When the smaller footprints grew and filled in Yours, I suppose that I was becoming like you in every way."

"Precisely."

"So, Lord, was there a regression or something? The footprints separated, and this time it was worse than at first."

There is a pause as the Lord answers with a smile in his voice. "You didn't know? That was when we were dancing."

*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: ..... a time to dance. Ecclesiastes 3:1,4.*



## St James Patronal Festival

Wednesday 25th July

PATRONAL EUCHARIST

7.00pm



Preacher: The Revd Eric Franklin  
formerly Tutor Stephen's House, Oxford

*followed by Party in The Rectory Garden*

## Morning Prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church  
Saturday Mornings

9.15 am

*all welcome*



## Rosanne Interviews



I used to work with a lady whose daily journey took her along Beauchamp Lane. At the turn of the year, on a dreary winter's day, she'd breeze into school saying "Spring's on the way, that lovely little tree in the churchyard is coming into bloom". The little tree that gives so much pleasure was planted, along with numerous others,

by Phil Thomas. Despite troublesome hip joints and some difficulty walking, he continues to work enthusiastically in both the churchyard and the rectory garden. He loves working alongside Sharon who is, in his estimation, one of the best gardeners the rectory has ever seen. Looking at his pretty summer garden full of flowers I got the impression that he knows what he's talking about when it comes to gardens and gardeners.

He was born in South Wales, son of a village cobbler. When he was only two his mother died and he and his four brothers and sisters were sent to a children's home. For twelve unhappy years Phil learnt to cope with older brothers who bullied him and the strict regime of the staff. Only his sisters offered any love during that bleak time. Eventually his elder sister went to live in London and fourteen-year-old Phil joined her, working in a variety of jobs from plumber's mate to hotel catering. For a short time he worked in a bar on the island of Jersey.

Just before World War II his sister moved to Oxford and he joined her. He got a job at the Co-op bakery. His war effort involved fire-fighting with the Oxfordshire volunteer fire service. He was called to many emergencies in the south of England including the bombing of Southampton docks. Life was not all work, though, and at a fire service dance in Abingdon he met and fell in love with a young fire woman from Folkestone. They were married in 1943 at St Lawrence's Church, Hinksey. After lodging for a short time in Dodgson Road the couple moved to Lake Street where their daughter Frances was born. Phil was by then stationed at Bicester, sometimes working 48 hour shifts, and cycled the journey to and fro in all weathers. With the war over and the south coast a safer place to live they moved to his wife Catherine's home town. Tragedy struck, Catherine died and Phil found himself with a baby girl to bring up. Once again his sister's home became a refuge. During his time in Folkestone he had been employed as a gardener and so on his return to Oxford he found work with the Oxford Parks department. Encouraged by his sister who helped to bring up Frances he became involved in a number of leisure activities. He learned ballroom dancing and helped run the youth club at the parish hall. He tells of seaside trips to Southsea and even remembers taking the young folk on a picnic to Shotover one evening "to look for fairies"! Oh yes...?!

Frances attended St James School and began to encourage her dad to take her to church. He found a warm welcome there and was soon serving on the management committee. He describes the churchyard at that time as a "complete mess" so he volunteered to clear the heaps of rubbish and mend the dry stone wall. Fr Beauchamp and Fr Whye were delighted. He then set about clearing and tidying the area around the parish hall and helped with St Luke's memorial garden.

Twenty-five years ago he began organising the annual Christian Aid collection in Cow-

# Phil Thomas

ley and he continues to do so. Once he had retired he spent time helping anyone in need to look after their gardens. Despite two hip replacement operations and some major complications he declares himself pain-free and amazingly active. His sister now lives with her husband in Canada and his daughter lives with him in Barns Road having made him a grandfather twice over. He says after 50 years of gardening he's still learning. One lesson he seems not to be prepared to learn is how to take life easy!

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

It must have been both my older sisters.

**Can you remember an incident in childhood which held special significance for you?**

I had one very special friend in the home - a boy a little bit older than me. He died when he was twelve and that upset me very much.

**What sort of child were you?**

Shy and very quiet. I loved the countryside and the sea. I was no good at school but I realise in later life how important education really is.

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

As a little boy I went to church and Sunday school. I've always had a prayer life, I kept my faith secret but I still prayed. I've kept contact with God in everything that matters.

**Which period in your adult life has given you most satisfaction?**

The latter part, my troubles are behind me.

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

Disorder and untidiness, I dislike people throwing litter and leaving chewing-gum about. I hate piles of rubbish.

**What's best about life today?**

I have a comfortable home life and I enjoy getting around in the car with my daughter.

**How do you spend your leisure time?**

I like nature and history programmes on TV and I love to read about history too.

**What makes you laugh?**

Sharing a good joke with friends and neighbours.

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

The way people treat each other. There should never be unkindness to people of different races.

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

I wish I could use my hands more. They use to be so good at crafts but my sticks make my hands so stiff.

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

I hope I'm well enough to still enjoy life and, of course, I'll be coming up to my hun-

