

Parish Director

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES
Team Rector:
 The Revd Stephen Hartley,
 Cowley Rectory,
 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

CHURCHWARDENS:
 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>6 Cranston Court</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

January

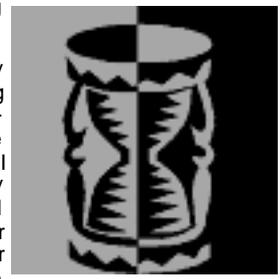
The Meaning of Time

As I sat to write this letter for the Chronicle, I found my mind pondering many themes. I thought about the fundamental reasons for the celebration of the New Millennium, the celebration of the Birthdays of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; the Do-

Omega; all time belongs to him, and all the ages; to him be glory and power, through every age for ever. Amen." And I was reminded that this new millennium, together with all time, all things, belongs to Christ and to God. And so whatever you ponder at this time, whatever we resolve to strive for, may we seek to live only in God's time - here and now, in the new millennium and to eternity.

I thought about my own life; my joys and sorrows, achievements and mistakes, hopes and dreams.

I thought about the pain and suffering and injustice in our troubled and broken world and how the new millennium offers such a great opportunity for healing and reconciliation.



But I also found my mind working along very different lines - thinking about time itself, 'What is time?' I recalled some words by an Orthodox priest and theologian, Fr Alexander Schmemmann, "We live in three dimensions of time: the world of nature; the world of history; the world of expectation." In other words we live our own span of time in the wider time of the natural world, which now flows is very time indeed in the timescale of human history and development, which includes the work of God in creation, salvation and redemption and in the timescale of our expectations, which include our longing for the coming of God's Kingdom in all glory and perfection.

And I thought of myself in other words; words which are said by the priest at the Easter Vigil as the new Paschal Candle is blessed and marked: "Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and

Fr. John

The monthly magazine of the Cowley Team Ministry

Chronicle

Parish Weekend

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th May
Offa House, nr Leamington Spa



“WITH ANGELS AND ARCHANGELS”

drawn into the heart of God through worship

in  we gloried day by day. Your name we praised always.

CHRISTINGLE 1999

The total raised for the Children's Society through the Christingle Services was £175.00



Healing Service

Wednesday
26th January
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 30th January 6 o'clock at St James Church



Charitable Giving

The PCC agreed last year to try to give 10% of our weekly giving from members of the congregations to charities and missions at home and overseas. The churchwardens and a representative from each church met and decided to allocate £2500:

Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship	£750.00
St Mungo's (for the homeless)	£150.00
St Luke's Hospital for Clergy	£150.00
Corymeela Community in Northern Ireland	£150.00
The Bridge Hostel (Oxford) for Young People	£150.00
Selena Firth (Cameroons)	£300.00
Cancer Relief India (Gilly Burn)	£300.00
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	£300.00
Neris Shalom Community (Israel)	£300.00



St Francis Church friday club

*for youngsters aged 8 and over
7.00 pm, alternate Fridays
contact Fr John, 748915, for details*

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN COWLEY & DISTRICT

Sunday in the Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity

Sunday 23rd January

UNITED SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP MEAL

6.30 pm

Our Lady Help of All Christians RC Church
Holloway

meet and eat with the Christians of Cowley



In this, an extract from his new book, *A Candle of Hope*, Garth Hewitt of Christian Aid considers what the Bible has to say about the concept of jubilee. The year of jubilee is a fascinating concept. Land and animals were to rest, all property was to be restored to its original owner and all debts were to be cancelled. It's possible that it was never lived out, but it is interesting that these instructions were part of the vision of the Hebrew Scriptures. Leviticus 25 describes the Sabbath first of all, not only as rest but as a period of grace. A Sabbath year is to be enjoyed every seven years, and then after seven times seven there is to be this year of release - or year of jubilee.

As Laurie Green, Bishop of Bradwell, wrote (in *Jesus and the Jubilee*, 1997): "It is important to note that this reparation was not merely making amends for personal sins committed, but was designed to repair the offences to God's holiness which had crept into the very fabric of the society over the 49 intervening years...."

"The essential element of the jubilee year of release was therefore the enactment of forgiveness of debt. It reminded the Israelites that the land belonged not to them but to Yahweh their God....So whilst people could own, and were at liberty to use the harvests from the land, the land itself was always to remain a gift of God to them, not to own, but merely to steward. They would remain always indebted to Yahweh, but only for a limited period of years to one another."

It is amazing how the commitment for the remissions of Third World debt has caught people's imagination. It might sound quite a complicated issue, but in fact, people are very much aware of the pain of debt. Whereas individuals or companies, when they are in debt, can be declared bankrupt, for a country this can't happen, and the whole structure of society can be pulled down by the pressure of repaying interest rates.....

The concept of jubilee is that people should not become slaves for ever more, whether literally or in debt. So society takes a pause and the earth has a pause and people have a fresh start.

What better time than at the beginning of a millennium to say, 'Let's start again!'

When Jesus, in Luke 4, quotes from Isaiah 61 in the synagogue at Nazareth, it is thought that He was inaugurating a permanent jubilee year, when he echoed the words "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Jesus was suggesting that these are the ongoing values by which we should live, the new values of God's reign.

Jesus was very inclusive, however. He said that this was not simply a jubilee for the Jewish community, but was to be liberation for all nations. This was too much for his listeners, who took him out and tried to throw him off the brow of the hill. But Jesus was proclaiming justice and jubilee for all.

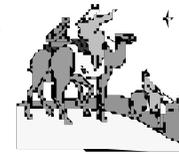
As Julius Nyerere, the former President of Tanzania, has said: "We cannot resign from the world as it is...Each of us individually has the responsibility to use his or her own judgement as to how we can make the maximum contribution to building a better world for humankind to live and work in."



Epiphany Marks A New Beginning

by David Winter

6 January is Twelfth Night - and of course, the Christmas decorations come down. It is the Christian feast of Epiphany - the only feast we celebrate by dismantling and putting things away!



Epiphany marks the visit of the so-called 'Wise Men' or 'kings' to the infant Jesus. They shouldn't, strictly speaking, be included in the nativity scene, because the Gospel story suggests they were late arrivals at Bethlehem - perhaps as much as two years late. But they made it in the end, and presented their well-known gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

I dubbed them 'so-called' wise men and kings, because - however you choose to read this misty and mysterious story - they were neither. They were in fact Magi - Magoi, in the root of our English word 'magic'. They were soothsayers, magicians, astrologers - the kind of people who kept the ancient world in thrall. Even the great philosophers of ancient Greece and Rome bowed before their authority, not daring to act without consulting steaming entrails, oracles and astrologers. Their world was seen to be at the mercy of capricious gods, and to double-guess their crafty intentions one needed a whole industry of such people. This gave them enormous power - a power they were, for the most part, not reluctant to exploit.

Such as these were the men who made their journey to Bethlehem, representatives of a regime of fear and superstition. Yet there they 'laid their treasures' at the feet of Jesus, and then bowed low to the ground and worshipped him. Thus, as the early Fathers of the Church delighted to point out, did the old age of fear and superstition yield to the new kingdom of love and peace.

And that's where the topical relevance of Epiphany emerges this year, 2000. The religious fringe have been prophesying Armageddon and the end of the world. But apart from that, one

only has to watch the current TV commercials to find enormous tabloid promotion schemes urging us to consult our horoscopes, to suspend reason, and believe, however faintly, that our future is our fate, and that it is written in the planets.

I know some people will regard religion, too, as a superstition, yet in truth the difference between faith and fate is enormous. To place my trust in a loving, wise and good God is a million miles away from the world of the magi - stars, entrails, tea-cups, whatever... and from millennial messianic madness.

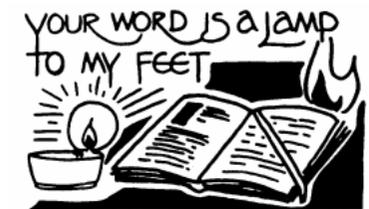
Epiphany speaks of a 'new age', an age of faith, not fear, inaugurated not with signs and wonders, but by the birth of a baby. He came to set us free from mindless superstition and slavery to an unfeeling fate. Epiphany marks an end, but also a beginning.

morning prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church
Saturday Mornings

9.15 am

all welcome



Rosanne interviews



"Quit while your ahead and if no one can give an answer to 'What's the next step?' then get out!" Quite a philosophy! What amazing self-confidence but so spoke Iain, deputy Churchwarden at St James. Is it being 30-something or maybe a child of the 60's that fuels this view of life? I tried to find out.

As the son of an RA F policeman his early life was one of constant change as he and his mother

moved from one posting to another to be with his father. He has two older sisters who went to boarding school whilst he and his parents were on the move. Iain found himself, at 9 years of age, living in Berlin within sight of The Wall and attending school on the RA F base. It was then that his Faith became important to him. He was Confirmed and says that until he was 16 his beliefs were unshakable.

On the family's return to England they lived near Nottingham where young Iain went to a fairly progressive secondary school. He shone in the sciences and mathematics. He was a bit of a rebel especially at 17 when he says he "put religion to rest" for some considerable time and did just enough work to get by. It was at this time that politics replaced his Faith and he and his left-wing friends believed that they were going to make an impact on the world.

At Aston (Birmingham) University he read physics and developed a considerable talent for archery having first been taught this by his father. His degree behind him he set about looking for employment and tells, with a wry smile, of 39 applications resulting in 39 rejections.

He, at last, found a post at Culham Laboratories doing research work focused on the development of nuclear fusion. He spent three years there interpreting the project's X rays and becoming computer literate but he realised that there was little career progression so (true to his own philosophy) he moved on.

It was during his four years at the Institute of Mathematics at Oxford University that he met Caroline. He first saw her at a party and, before the evening was over, realised that this was "the real thing". Six months later he proposed and in 1992 they were married. All this time his faith was still "at rest" though Caroline is, and always had been, an unshakeable Christian brought up in the Roman Catholic Faith. He had a number of Christian friends who must have had some influence but it wasn't until he was about 32 that he felt the need, as he puts it, to return to the Church and take Communion. It was at this point in his life that he found St James' Church.

You don't often get the privilege in this day and age to hear about real miracles but Iain and Caroline experienced one when their lovely baby, Alexander, was born in July 1998. You see, they were told that he had been born with a heart defect. Tests were done and there was, medically speaking, no doubt. That's when prayer came in - of course within the family but also within our church community and even with Iain and Vemon, meeting by chance, and praying in the middle of the street! Four week old Alex, on drugs and due for an operation, was taken for a check-up to the J R. He was found to be completely well. His parents were told, "your baby's heart is fine" and when they asked what they should do with all his drugs they were told to take them back to the chemist because he would never need them.

Iain, after a series of quitting while ahead now works on the staff of Newsquest which produces our local newspapers. He and his staff of three look after the computers. He is a young man with lots of energy, a bit short of spare time, but his next step, we hope, will be along with us into the next century.

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

When I was a teenager I had a particular teacher, Mr Williams, who believed in me when nobody else did. He didn't pull his punches that he really did come along at the right time.

What sort of child were you?

Independent, a bit rebellious. Sometimes I found myself alone but I enjoy my own company. I didn't get too involved with people.

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

I became a Christian at about eight years old. At 16 I put it to one side for quite a long time. I experience a gradual reawakening around 30.

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

From 25 onwards my life has just got better and better. I believe the best is yet to come.

Are there any aspects of modern life which you dislike?

People don't take stock enough. They should stop and look around, stop the carousel, get off and stop rushing about.

What's best about life today?

Communication - to be able to email friends. Ordinary people connecting with other ordinary people is very liberating. The chaos of the Internet is such fun.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Spend time with my family - we like to go away perhaps to the seaside. I love walking, theatre, jazz. I'm a real Radio 2 fan but I also enjoy classical music that makes a big noise and lots of folk stuff.

What makes you laugh?

People who are genuinely witty, zany humour - Monty Python, The Goons, anything off the wall. I dislike cruel, crude or sarcastic humour.

If you had a magic or holy wand what would you changed?

Native Americans have a saying that you can't understand a person until you walk a few miles in their moccasins. If anyone has a grievance with, or power over, another person I would use my wand to make that first person *become* the second. That would sort the world out.

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

I wouldn't change a thing!

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

I'd like a complete change of direction in my job and also be what my family wanted me to be.

Iain Johnson

