

## 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

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.

May 2000

# An Alleluia People

**"We are an Easter people - and 'Alleluia' is our song"**

These words are from St Augustine and remind us about the fundamental importance to us of the events of Easter which we celebrate throughout this Easter Season.

Jesus' friends discovered that after the pain and desolation of Good Friday, death was not strong enough to hold Christ, and that after the Resurrection he was present with them in a new way. Christ was with them, filling their hearts and minds and lives with joy.

Whenever Christ's followers have allowed the Easter mysteries to fill their lives they have become changed people -

**"We are an Easter people - and 'Alleluia' is our song"**

But, we might say, how can we be a people who sing 'alleluia' when we live in a world filled with so much pain and anguish? We know ourselves of people enduring enormous stress over the future of Rover; people under pressure through their work or lack of it; people facing sickness or terminal disease and coping with bereavement; others facing exams and enforced changes through circumstances beyond their control; there are those struggling to cope with the burdens and anxieties of life itself. And we could go on at much greater length, to say nothing of the huge problems throughout the wider world. In the light of all that we and others face, how then can we say, **"We are an Easter people - and 'Alleluia' is our song"**?

To be an Easter people is also to be a Good Friday people. To be filled with the true joy of the Resurrection is to know also about the pain and agony of the garden and the Cross. The one does not negate the other, rather they are two sides of the same coin. The risen Jesus still bears the scars of the crucifixion, as Thomas found out.

Christ brings his new life to all who

receive it by faith; but faith is not an anaesthetic to the world's pain, nor a vaccination from it. We discover Christ in the joyful resurrection-type experiences that we all share; He is there, too, in the painful crucifixion-type experiences which we and others have all too often.

And it is when we open ourselves truly to Jesus in both, that we can fully become an Easter people, and sing with hearts filled with praise, **Alleluia!**



*Fr. John*

**The monthly magazine of the Cowley Team Ministry**

# Chronicle

## Forty Days with the Risen Christ

May is the season of Eastertide, the period of 40 days between Easter and Ascension Day, which falls this year on Thursday, 1 June.

It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! - but if you look in your diaries, you will find the Sundays are numbered Easter 1, Easter 2, and so forth. These are the forty days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send *them* - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.



## Healing Service

Tuesday 23rd May

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 14th May 6 o'clock



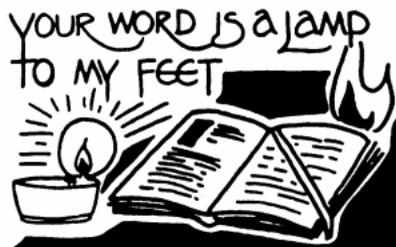
## morning prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church

Saturday Mornings

9.15 am

*all welcome*



## Ascension Day

Thursday 1st June

St Francis

7.00 pm Holy Eucharist

St James

9.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Sung Eucharist



## Praise in the Park

A Summer Millennium Celebration in the grounds of Blenheim Palace

Sunday 11th June 7.00 pm

Picnic beforehand with Christians from across the county

*Coaches leave St Francis and St James at 4.45 pm*

*£5 - children free*

Please sign the lists in church

2000



The Churchwardens invite you to share with Stephen and his Family and Friends in a

## Service of Celebration

to mark the

Silver Jubilee of his Ordination

to the Priesthood

Monday 3rd July 7.00 pm

St James Church

Guest Preacher: The Right Revd John Bone  
*Bishop of Reading 1989-96*

followed by a Reception in the Rectory Garden



## Alpha Initiative 2000

Supper parties and evening meals are set to take place all over the UK in homes, churches and halls on an evening during the last week in September prior to the start of local Alpha courses. St James will be hosting a meal and then running Alpha courses from the second week of October. It is hoped that hundreds of thousands of people will respond to the UK-wide 'invitation to supper'. Churches are being encouraged to invite local dignitaries like councillors, Members of Parliament, and major employers in the region to local supper parties.

For this unique event, one of the biggest enterprises undertaken by Christian churches in the UK for many years, the supper parties will also take place in prisons and universities. Polls show that 3.6 million people in the UK have now been on an Alpha course or know someone who has.

A national advertising campaign involving billboards, posters and leaflets, will promote the 'invitation to supper' addressed to the whole nation. Following supper parties in homes and churches, in ten large-scale city events including Oxford, Alpha speaker Nicky Gumbel will deliver the talk 'Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?', in person at major conference venues.

Dates for your diary

- 1. Thursday 25 May at St. Andrews Church, Linton Road, N. Oxford**  
10am to 5.30pm Course Maximising the Potential of Alpha in Oxford  
Run by Nicky Gumbel and Sandy Millar costing £5  
5.45pm Light meal £3.50  
7pm Evening Celebration (Free and open to all)  
For details of above obtain a pink programme from Vernon
- 2. Thursday 14 September Prayer Celebration at St. Clement's Church.**  
Come and pray for Alpha and celebrate God's goodness with other Oxford Christians. This is the major Millennium get together of Christians in the city of Oxford for the year 2000.
- 3. Thursday evening 5 October Apollo Theatre Oxford**  
Nicky Gumbel and Diane Louise Jordan lead an evening to bring your friends to either from the supper party or any others who you think might join the following week's Alpha courses.

Any queries or questions to Vernon



## Rogation-tide 29th – 31st May

Rogation means an asking - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice goes back to when the Romans invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. The point was to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with school boys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation as said, imploring God to send seasons of wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them.



*A small boy was asking his mother where he came from and when he heard his mother's explanation he said: 'Mummy, when God planted the seed in your tummy, was there a photo of me on the packet?'*

# Rosanne Interviews



At both our churches most of us make an effort to welcome newcomers and I am happy to report to that this month's interviewee told me that from the moment he and his wife walked into St James' they felt comfortable and at home. Nick and Lohna were told about St James' by a friend soon after they had arrived in Cowley last November and are already active members of the congregation. In fact it is they who, through their connections with the Church in Kenya, are helping to channel our Lent Lunch profits towards the starving in East Africa.

Nick has had a varied career before taking up his present post at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies. He began his working life as a bank clerk and, eight years later, trained to teach. He taught mainly in Dorset and then in Oxford primary schools. He studied for his degree in Theology and Comparative Religion at Southampton University.

He says that as a child he found it hard to make friends probably due to his father's various postings in the R A F. These, of course, necessitated several moves of school. As a young man living in Wimborne, Dorset, and attending services at the Minster, he offered his help with their youth group. It was whilst he was at a Church-led family weekend in Corby in 1997 that he struck up the most important friendship of his life. He got into conversation with a girl from Kenya at one of the African dance sessions. Soon they were swapping addresses. Later Lohna (as you guessed, didn't you?) sent Nick some photos she had taken at the weekend group sessions. He responded and their friendship flourished. When she took him back to Kenya to meet her parents the inevitable engagement took place. They were married in Oxford in 1999. This year, along with his family, they are returning to Africa for a special blessing of their marriage on their first wedding anniversary.

As Personal Assistant to the Director of Mission Studies at the Oxford Centre his job sounds exciting and demanding. He's in communication with representatives of the International Fellowship of Mission Theologians throughout the world taking care of the Director's day-to-day commitments. He also has a pastoral and counselling role, advising and supporting students, many of whom are half a world away from home.

You only have to walk into Nick and Lohna's sitting room to realise that music plays an important part in his life. His guitar is at hand and there is a huge selection of CDs from which to choose. In fact at one point my interview digressed into an enthusiastic discussion about jazz when I discovered that our tastes coincide rather a lot and he played me a few of his favourite tracks! His creativity also manifests itself in some amazing poetry writing too.

At every corner of his life he believes that God has a master plan for him and that each skill and qualification is a stepping stone along the way.

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

There was a teacher. I was left-handed and she taught me to use my right hand. I am now fluent with my right hand and I'm pleased.

## **Can you remember an incident in a young life which held special significance for you?**

Being Confirmed at about 15. I always look back at it as a kind of transformation of one's life.

## **What sort of child were you?**

I started off being open and gregarious. I was bullied and became quiet and shy. It might also have been because I was the middle one between an older and younger sister.

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

I went to Church and sang in the choir when I was eight or nine but my Faith grew in my late teens and early twenties. I recognised I had a Faith and then God called me to teach.

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

My late Thirties, that's to do with marrying Lohna. I get more satisfaction since moving from my family home.

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

I think the Western world is superficial and materialistic. There is too much emphasis on the individual rather than community. Our society is a godless one, people are disenchanted with the spiritual life and enchanted with materialistic things especially technology.

## **What is best about today?**

Ease in getting around and communication. Positive moves in medicine and global understanding.

## **When you find time for leisure how do you like to spend it?**

Not an awful lot of time. I enjoy chess, badminton, swimming and snorkelling, walking, cycling, writing poetry. Music, including singing, playing guitar and tuba and, of course, jazz.

## **What makes you laugh?**

Situation comedy such as "Fawlty Towers" and clever play on words such as some of "The Two Ronnies" sketches.

## **If you had a holy wand, what would you change?**

Very easy, I'd make the world such a place that we wouldn't need money. Then people would do things for love.

## **If you were not doing what you're doing now, what else would you do?**

I've always wanted to make a beautiful guitar and play it incredibly well.

## **What you hope to be doing in 10 years' time?**

Looking after a family with Lohna, perhaps in Kenya - but that all depends on God.

# Nick Hebditch

