

## 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

Benson 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	St James Prayer Group – <i>Benson 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>
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.

December 2000

## O Hear the Angels Telling

With the preparations for Christmas now gathering apace, we are aware of those for whom the forthcoming celebration will be anything but happy. The weather seems relentless in its incessant rain. Many people in our own country are suffering the same devastation that we would normally associate with

countries much further afield. For commuters and other travellers the chaos on our railways only adds to the sense of frustration and despondency. Twenty-six years ago we were living through the winter of discontent; as we come to the end of for the year 2000, we are conscious of those forces beyond human control which

can wreak havoc with our lives. Yet Christmas will still be celebrated in spite of the hardship - as it has been at other times of personal or national suffering. It tries its best to give cheer in these dark and hapless

December days. For the Christian, Christmas proclaims light shining in the darkness; hope surfacing in despair; and peace struggling to make itself known in the midst of

the clamours of everyday life. Jesus was born into a world quite different to our own but

the message has never changed, "To you is born a Saviour who is Christ the Lord". God becomes man in Jesus and is proclaimed as Emmanuel - *God with us*. Though Christmas for many is just a winter feast, we are reminded that God is our Creator. Jesus is born in Bethlehem that we might know God and be reconciled to him. The world is in danger of being out of control. Humanity seems more distant from God. The effects of global warming should

remind us of our status in relation to our Creator God. *Our God, heaven cannot hold him, Nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee a way*



*When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,*

*Jesus Christ.*

Jesus comes to humbly remind us that we are creatures of the Almighty and precious to in his sight. May find time this Christmas to hear the angels

sing.

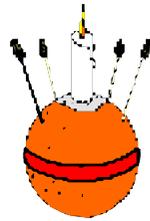
With my best wishes,

*The monthly magazine of the Cowley Team Ministry*

# Chronicle

# Christingle Service

Sunday 10th December  
4 o'clock  
St James and St Francis



*This is the Children's Society's major annual fund-raising event. Gift Envelopes will be available in both churches.*

## Healing Service

Wednesday  
20th December 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  
7th January  
6 o'clock



## CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Not found in England earlier than 1854. The practise also came from Germany, but not exclusively; for in certain French and Italian convents, the nuns had long been hanging stockings on the abbess' door, with notes inside asking for St Nicholas' protection; and next morning they would be found to be full of sweets and trinkets.



## Christmas at Saint Francis



### Christmas Eve - Advent 4

8.00 am Holy Eucharist  
10.30 am Sung Eucharist  
3.30 pm Crib Service  
11.00 pm The Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

8.00 am Holy Eucharist  
10.30 am Family Eucharist

### First Sunday of Christmas (31st December)

8.00 am Holy Eucharist  
10.30 am Sung Eucharist  
6.00 pm Service of Lessons and Carols

## Mission and Charity Giving 2000

The PCC gives away 10% of our direct giving from members of our congregations to missions and charities. Half the amount goes to organisations here in England and the rest overseas. This year's distribution is as follows:

Home		Overseas	
Cowley Asian Fellowship	720	USPG	300
Church Army Sponsorship	270	Christian Blind Mission	200
Douglas House Hospice	230	Romanian Prison Appeal	200
Corymeela Project	230	Salena Firth	200
Scottish Fishermen Appeal*	50	Nevis Shalom	200
		Cancer Relief India	200
		Mozambique Diaster Appeal*	200
		Romania Hospital Appeal*	25
	1500		

\*emergency appeals sent earlier in the year

1525

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

When most people hear 'The 12 days of Christmas' they think of the song. This song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith. From 1558 to 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly, so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs. The song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is one example of how they did it.

The song goes, "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..." The 'true love' represents God and the 'me' who receives these presents is the Christian.

The 'partridge in a pear tree' was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.

The 'two turtle doves' were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God. The 'three French hens' were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (1 Corinthians 13).

The 'four calling birds' were the four Gospels, which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The 'five golden rings' were the first five books of the Bible, also called the 'Book of Moses'.

The 'six geese a-laying' were the six days of creation.

The 'seven swans a-swimming' were 'seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.' (1 Corinthians 12:9-11, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4:10-11.)

The 'eight maids a-milking' were the eight beatitudes.

The 'nine ladies dancing' were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

The 'ten lords a-leaping' were the Ten Commandments.

The 'eleven pipers piping' were the eleven faithful disciples.

The 'twelve drummers drumming' were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed. So the next time you hear 'The 12 Days of Christmas' consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its origins in the Christian Faith.



# Christmas at Saint James

## Sunday 17th December

6.30 pm Service of Lessons and Carols

## Christmas Eve - 4th Sunday in Advent

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

4.00 pm Crib Service

11.00 pm The Midnight Mass

## Christmas Day

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Eucharist

## St Stephen's Day - December 26th

9.30 am Eucharist

## The Holy Innocents - Thursday December 28th

9.30 am Eucharist

## New Year's Day - The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

9.30 am Eucharist

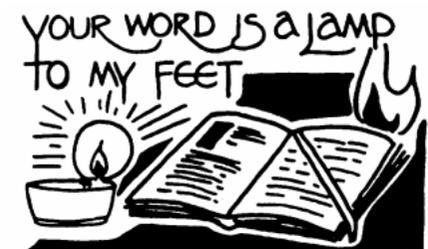
Stephen will be available to hear Confessions and take Holy Communion to the housebound and the sick by appointment



## morning prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church  
Saturday Mornings  
9.15 am

*all welcome*



# Rosanne interviews



I believe that everyone has a story to tell and that often the quietest and most unassuming people have lived the most interesting lives. Arthur is such a person. A clue to some of his experiences lies in the row of medals he wears on Remembrance Sunday each year. A local boy is Arthur - East Oxford and Cowley through and through.

Born in Hurst Street, the eldest son of a family of four he attended East Oxford School from the age of five until he left at 14. He was a well behaved boy and slightly hard

of hearing. Sitting at the back of the class made learning difficult and, he says, he lost interest in many of his lessons. Not surprisingly he didn't like school much except for carpentry. He enjoyed, and still does, using tools and working with his hands. He had great hopes of becoming a carpenter when school days were over but that was not to be. His father did not consider it much of a job and apprenticed him to Hinkins and Frewins as a plumber. "In those days you didn't argue with your dad."

By the time the Second World War began Arthur had already met the girl he hoped to marry. At a Saturday "hop" in Cowley Parish Hall he and a friend joined a couple of local girls enjoying their cups of tea in the interval. One of the girls, Jean, became his partner for the rest of the evening. A date at the Electra Cinema in Oxford the following week got the romance off to a flying start. In 1943 Arthur, dashing in his uniform, married his sweetheart, by special licence, before being shipped abroad and into action.

His call-up papers came requiring him to report to his unit in Chichester on the very day that his older sister, Ivy, had chosen for her wedding. His mother wrote to the War Office to request a postponement. Unbeknown to Arthur permission did not arrive so when he reported to barracks he was put on a charge. Arrested for being AWOL on your first day, what a start to your military career!

Before embarkation his regiment, the Royal Warwick, were stationed in a number of locations in the UK. Finally newly-married, he joined a troopship on the Clyde in Glasgow bound for Sicily. The allied forces were pushing up into Italy and it was in that country that he sought the most action. On the way, though, his ship was torpedoed off Gibraltar and bombed in the Bay of Biscay. He was laid up with dysentery in Algiers and on recovery was soon fighting with the Warwicks in Sicily. Crossing the Straits of Messina they saw further action in Ancona. While in Italy he was thrilled to meet Gracie Fields who did much to lift the morale of the British troops. She invited him to tea at her villa on Capri and he was delighted to accept.

After VE day and home leave, he returned to Bologna where he had another spell in hospital. Afterwards he was put in charge of the Military Education Centre in Milan. It was here that he met and chatted to Sir Harry Secombe - one of Arthur's proud memories.

However, the story I most enjoyed about his encounters with the rich-and-famous is this one: in his job at the education centre he was responsible for a number of library materials including gramophone records. A pile of these had been temporarily left on a chair. In walked Sir Winston Churchill on an official visit, took a seat and smashed the lot! I never did discover whether the great man replaced them.

Once demobbed in 1947 Arthur and Jean set up home in East Oxford where baby Diana was born. They then bought their home in Campbell Road and their family increased - first Marion and then Philip. After the excitement of military service family life took over. A job at press deal left him unhappy with the indoor life in a factory. He has always been an outdoor man remembering happy childhood holidays on his grandparents' farm. Finally he joined the Oxford Bus Company hand building components such as exhausts and radiators for the city buses.

Now retired, he and Jean still live in Campbell Road where he tends his lovely flower garden and enjoys his many hobbies and interests. He speaks of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren with great pride.

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

My Aunt Mary. She lived in Fritwell with granny and Aunt Winnie. She took my sister and me for walks and talked about the countryside.

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

When I was four years old I had my tonsils out and while in hospital got pneumonia. I went into a coma and remember telling my mother that there was an angel there with me.

## What sort of child were you?

A good, quiet little boy. I liked swimming and boating. When I was older I swam with the police from Folly Bridge to Iffley Lock.

## Has your Faith been with you since childhood?

We always used to go to chapel and Sunday-School as children. When things were bad in the army I used to pray.

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

More now than ever, with my grandchildren and great-grandchildren I enjoy everyday.

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

The crime and violence against old people.

## What's best about life today?

Our friends and family and the pleasure they give Jean and me.

## How do you like to spend your leisure time?

With my birds, in my garden and cooking. My aviary is upside down at the moment but I intend to restock it with budgies and canaries. I make and decorate all our Christmas cakes and always cook the Christmas dinner.

## What makes you laugh?

Watching the antics of folk around us. We get a lot of laughs at bingo and the things the grandchildren say.

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

Have a bigger house to keep all our knick-knacks in!

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

Same as I'm doing now. (R.B. Ask a silly question.....)

# Arthur Cox

