

## 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: vemon.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.

January 2001

## Into the Unknown

The purists rejoice at the start of the Third Millennium in 2001. W H Smith rolled out its rather tired looking Millennium party hats and poppers, stowed away since last year, for any who were to hold a *Real Millennium Party*. Some may have tried to have two bites at the cherry!

2001 has as ominous ring about it as 1984. Stanley Kubrick left us the spectre of a world dominated by computers rather than the Orwellian Big Brother. Both foresaw some truth.

A New Year holds much in store as we peer into the future. Future global catastrophes and conflicts are as yet hidden beyond the horizon. What we can see is the rapidly increasing pace of change. Mobile phones and internet access no longer luxuries but commonplace necessities for many.

The Church has to face all this and may feel uncomfortable. Society's outlook and moral values change before our eyes and the Church is finding it hard to meet the challenge. Our Archbishops see the difficulties which lie ahead.

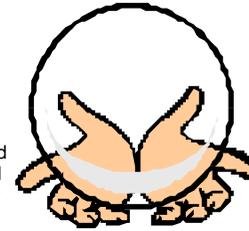
Just before Christmas Bishop Richard renewed my Licence as Team Rector for a further seven years. I wonder what the Church will be like by 2008! Will numbers have dwindled further or will something more remarkable take place? The Church has faced enormous hurdles in the past and has survived.

Look at the Church beyond Europe and it is thriving. It would seem that other cultures value spirituality more than Europeans. Perhaps we are placing too much trust in technologies and the world of the dot com. Rescuing the spiritual heart of our culture has to be a priority. The numbers who came to Midnight Mass, mostly visitors, show us that there is still a connection being made with the Church.

The challenge facing us is to strike a chord which reawakens the spiritual heart of 21st century men and women in a way in which so much of what the Church does fails to do.

I take heart from the prophet Isaiah:

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour."*



*The monthly magazine of the Cowley Team Ministry*

# Chronicle

## Alpha 2001

A new *Alpha* course is starting in January (details below) please contact Vernon if you and/or a friend would like to come - Telephone: 779666

Email: vernon.orr@lineone.net

To help you decide you could come to the pre-course **Alpha Supper at 7pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January in the Parish Hall** but please let Vernon know if you are coming to the supper by Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> to assist with catering arrangements.

Tuesdays 7.00 to 9.30pm

Starts Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at Benson Cottage, Beauchamp Lane, Cowley.  
Meal included.



## Healing Service

Wednesday

24<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**4th February**  
**6 o'clock**



### At the January sales:

- Notice outside ladies dress shop: 'Don't stand outside and faint at our prices. Come inside and have a fit!'
- 'I'd like to try on that dress in the window, please.'  
'I'm sorry, madam, you'll have to try it on in the changing rooms like everybody else.'
- As for anybody who gave their children a pet for Christmas, bear this in mind!  
It's nice for children to have pets, until the pets start having children.

## St Francis Church 70th Anniversary - 2001 *Pilgrimage to Assisi*

20 - 27 October 2001

If you might like to come with us on pilgrimage to Assisi there are some leaflets giving more information at the back of the churches, or please speak to Fr John

## St Francis Church GROWING IN THE EUCCHARIST

Sunday 21st January

10.30am,

(The next service is planned for 11<sup>th</sup> March)

## morning prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church  
Saturday Mornings

9.15 am

*all welcome*



## A ROUGH NIGHT FOR SOME

'Oh why am I doing this?' I thought as I looked up at the beautiful starry sky on a cold, slightly windy night. The hype before this cold unusual night had kept me going and every time somebody told me I was mad to sleep out in the cold it urged me on even more. Now though, it started to sink in, that yes maybe I was a bit mad! I mean sleeping out in the cold in front of a church, with a bunch of kids a bit older than me, and three adults. Not something you do often, but it was for someone else. I'd done things for other people in the past, but maybe this was taking it a bit far? Sleeping rough for a bunch of people I had never even met when I could quite easily sleep in my own warm bed! What then drove me to do this and get very cold? Well it sounded quite fun the first time I heard about it and I had been told that we'd get bacon and eggs for breakfast!

Then I started thinking back to last Christmas. Yeah I had a fun time with my family, and I also went Christmas shopping. I went into Oxford with my friends. This was fun, but when we turned into a back street or came out of a big shop or passed a doorway there was someone there. Not just your normal shopper but a scruffily dressed human with a blanket and sometimes a dog. These weren't people that you paid any attention to, you just passed them and you carried on your life and they carried on theirs. These people have to spend Christmas by themselves. The lucky few get to sleep in a shelter and get to spend it with others in their position, but not with their own family. Think about the people still out in the doorway. They have to watch people going about their Christmas shopping and know that they're going to be spending Christmas in the cold, with no family and no presents. Yeah at the time I carried on, and I didn't give them a second thought. They were the scruffy people who let down our city.

Now if you asked me why I slept out in the cold, I would say to help people less fortunate than ourselves, and to let people who sleep rough know that, yes somebody does care. And I don't think this because the message from teachers and other people has sunk in, but because at last I can see properly what some people have to put up with, possibly year after year. OK, so I only slept outside the church for one night and I had friends there and I had various facilities available for me to use, but I could so easily see how low somebody could get sleeping rough in the cold. Then you have to wonder why they are there. Family problems maybe or possibly money, but these people must be very strong because I know that if I was in that position I would be incredibly low and upset.

This Christmas please spare a thought for people less lucky than ourselves. I'm sure that you have had that said to you many a time but for me anyway it took a long time to sink in and now it just about has.

LOU STANWAY

Ps. In doing our sponsored sleep-out these young people also raised £919.97 to support the work of those agencies in our city who work with the homeless - I put that down as a superb effort - thanks to Vicki, Emily, James, Jessica, Connor, Becky, James, Simon, Lou, David and Lucy; thanks to Clare & Fr Peter for sleeping out with them; and to everyone who sponsored them.

FR JOHN



## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2001

Churches Together in Cowley agreed that we would try to pray together every day during the Week of Prayer.

We meet at **7.00 p.m.** each day for about **20 minutes**

The venues will be:

Thursday	18	Rose Hill Methodist Church
Friday	19	Our Lady Help of Christians, Hollow Way
Saturday	20	St Mary the Virgin, Iffley
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6.00 p.m. New Testament Church of God - Cowley Parish Hall Between Towns Road</b>
Monday	22	John Bunyan Baptist Church
Tuesday	23	St James Church, Cowley
Wednesday	24	Holy Family, Blackbird Leys
Thursday	25	SS Mary the Virgin & Nicholas, Littlemore

### NEW HOME GROUP

For people who have been on the recent *Alpha* courses, we are planning a follow up course of 9 evenings, looking at the topic of "A Life worth Living". These will be held in the home of Franz and Maggie Stevens. See Vernon if you would like to come. Details are:

Tuesdays 7.00 to 9.30pm  
starts Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
at 55 Church Hill Road.



# Rosanne interviews



I guess if any one had asked me if I knew Alan Howell I would have said, "Of course". After all didn't he and I run the Welly Wanging competition at our summer fete some 18 years ago and haven't I chatted to him over coffee in church on countless occasions? However when it came to this interview I found that I didn't really know him at all. I was talking to a man brought up with old fashioned principles of integrity and respect for those in authority.

He speaks of his hard working mother, whose husband walked out of the family home,

leaving her to provide for and bring up their five children. She it was who instilled structure and strong values. Alan was still very young when his father left and he recalls how much his eldest sisters supported their mother. She, and later her husband, became an anchor for him throughout his childhood and teenage years.

Schooldays began at Rose Hill Primary School then over to the newly opened school at Blackbird Leys. Good at maths and English he was a well behaved child and he flourished. At his secondary school, Redefield, he became a successful cross-country runner representing the school on a number of locations, most notably in the Oxfordshire Schools Championship. Formal education ended at 15 and the day after leaving school Alan took up the post of office boy at Nuffield Press. During the next 28 years he learned a great deal about the printing business especially accounts. He rose through the ranks to Deputy Accounts Manager.

Whilst making his way in the world he enjoyed his leisure time, going fishing and supporting Oxford United along with his brother in law (this a kind of surrogate father) and also dashing around on his motorbike. In his late teens he met Pat, an Irish girl who had crossed the water to join her brothers and sisters, all working in Oxford. At first she lived with another of her sisters but soon moved into lodgings in Iffley Road. It was there, through his brother, that she was formally introduced to Alan. They began dating and soon love led to a wedding in Iffley Church. Honey-mooning in Pat's home area in southern Ireland started another love affair for Ireland. He is enchanted by the simple peace of the place and has returned there, with his wife, time and time again.

Their first married home was a mobile home in Garsington. A move to Blackbird Leys followed, then in 1978 a brand-new home house became Pat's pride and joy. Alan speaks with pride about his two sons - Stewart 24 and David 21. He enjoyed their childhood very much. He also enjoyed his home being full of other children when his wife was a child minder. He has a natural rapport with them which comes as no surprise when he says that he is not only prepared to give them time and talk to them but enjoy his listening to them too. His current fan club are the youngsters who attend St James Junior Church. Helping to run this, he declares is "the best thing that's ever happened" to him.

Since leaving Nuffield Press he now works for another printing firm in Charlgrove where he works as an estimator. His faith and his life within the Church are important to him. He enjoyed serving as deputy churchwarden alongside Margaret Martin, a position he said he "breezed" into. He still enjoys his leisure time, describing long days by the river with his fishing tackle and regular walks across Shotover amongst his happiest moments. The one thing which might rival these would be if his beloved Leeds United were to win the Premiership title!

**Was there one particular person who had an influence on your early life?.**

Two - my sister Maureen and her husband Don. She was like a mum to me.

**Can you remember an incident, or incidents, in your childhood which held special significance for you?**

When I was little I used to go and stay with my aunt and uncle at Blockley in Gloucestershire. I loved the simplicity of their lives as ordinary farmers. They took me for walks and talked to me for hours.

**What sort of child were you?**

I had a great sense of responsibility especially towards my mum.

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

It has always been there. When I was about seven I started going to Sunday-School. I liked it Church has always been a part of my life

**Which part of your adult life has giving you most satisfaction?**

From 40 onwards. Changes happening in your life and I have discovered the importance of people as friends.

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

I hate commercialism and violence. I wish I had been born 200 years ago. I like the simple pleasures in life. In Ireland where my wife was born life is so idyllic; people are so friendly

**What is best about life today?**

I've got a good relationship with my boys. Stuart and I are a great film buffs. Also Junior Church has changed my life.

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

Walking has always been my passion since I was a little boy. I'd love to read especially biographies. Love listening to music (I have a Johnny Cash LP which I have nearly worn away!) mostly folksongs and light classics and, of course, I'm a lifelong fan of Leeds.

**What makes you laugh?**

Children, some of the things they say. Good comedy like "Fawlty Towers" and "Only Fools and Horses". I've no time for rude innuendo.

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

I'd love to live in a world where people were more friendly to each other and there was no need to lock things up.

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

I'd like to be a teacher.

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

Still working much the same as now. Always involved with children, hopefully at church. And taking my grand children for long walks.

# Alan Howell

