

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 Tomlinson,
St Francis' Vicarage,
2 Meyseys Close
Tel: 748915
Email:fj@care4free.net

Associate Priest:
Fr Peter Stanway
22 Colleywood
Kennington
Tel: 739342

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 – 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 Communions 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.

March 2001

Happy Birthday St Francis Church!

This year is a very special one for us all at St Francis Church for we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the opening of our church. Anniversaries are significant events whenever they occur in life and we often do a number of things: we look back and reflect; we celebrate in the present; we commit ourselves to the future. And it is just the same for us in our 70th anniversary year at St Francis.

We look back and reflect; and as we do so we give thanks for those who had the vision to found our church and marvellous building - and the drive and commitment to see that vision made real. We also give thanks for those who have worshipped and served God here during those years and through all of the changes that have taken place around. We give thanks for those whom we have known personally and who have helped and encouraged us on our way.

And it is good and right to celebrate these things, and to celebrate also those good things which are happening now - that God is still at work in and with his people to further his kingdom. And we hope that there will be many ways of celebrating this year: two major services followed by shared meals - one on the 18th March, which is 70 years to the day from the opening and another on 4th October, our Patronal Festival; quiet days and an 'At home' retreat, together with Emmaus courses to help us all continue our own spiritual growth; a pilgrimage to Assisi in October; other events for young and old alike to share in a year of celebration.

But we also look to build on the past, to be faithful in our turn to God's call to follow and serve him - just as others have done in the past. We plan for some significant renovations to our building - to replace the lighting, to carry out work on the damp in the east wall, to renew some of the windows. We hope to leave our building in a fit state for the next period of years.

And to do all of this, we need also to be prepared to rededicate ourselves in God's service, to commit ourselves above all to be people of prayer and worship. For if we do that, two things will happen: firstly, we ourselves will be drawn ever more deeply into God's presence and love and find true meaning and fulfilment in life; secondly, others will experience these things through us - and they too will be drawn in to share in the riches which God offers to us all.

May God continue to bless St Francis Church and help us to love and serve and grow.



Fr. John

The monthly magazine of the Cowley Team Ministry

70th Anniversary

LENT AT ST JAMES

TUESDAY LENT EUCHARIST & LUNCH

These will be on **Tuesdays at 12 o'clock** beginning on March 6th. The Eucharist is followed by a simple lunch of soup, bread & cheese, fruit, tea or coffee. Proceeds will go to USPG's Tercentenary Fund

LENT TALKS

Following on from the success of last year, another series of Lent talks has been arranged by the Oxford Diocesan Renewal Fellowship in Abingdon on **Wednesday evenings**. Transport is available to those who would like to go along to these evenings.

March 7th	Learning New Patterns of Being Church	Chris Neal
March 14th	Reconciling People and Healing Places	Russ Parker
March 21st	Jesus—the Relational Son of God	Richard Kane
March 29th	What is "Servant Leadership"?	Bp Colin Fletcher
April 4th	"Who do you think you are?"	Ann Persson

Chris Neal is the Diocesan Director of Evangelisation

Russ Parker is the Director of the Acorn Healing Trust

Richard Kane is the Director of National Marriage Week

Colin Fletcher is Bishop of Dorchester

Ann Persson is the Director of "The Spring" at Highmoor Hall, Nettlebed

Please contact Stephen if you would like to go to these gatherings.

Healing Service

Tuesday

20th March 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
1st April
6 o'clock
Speaker: Ian Nay-



Lent at St Francis

An Emmaus Course for Lent THE EUCHARIST

on Tuesdays & Wednesdays in Lent, starting on 6th/7th March, a course to think about and explore further the act of worship which is central to our faith as Christians.

'Do this in remembrance of me'



Services at St Francis during Lent

these will all take place in church -

Thursdays - **Night Prayer** at 9.45pm

Sundays - **Stations of the Cross** at 5.30pm, followed by **Quiet Prayer** before the Cross until 6.45pm.

Morning Prayer on Saturdays continues at 9.15am - followed by breakfast.

As we keep the important season of Lent, why not join in one of these times of prayer and devotion? - if you can't come to church, you could always set aside one of these times for prayer at home.

Mothers' Union Quiet Afternoon

led by

The Reverend Vernon Orr

Monday 19th March

2.30 pm in St James Hut

All welcome



February 28th Was Ash Wednesday

Lent Has Just Begun

Lent is not a time to make yourself as miserable as possible - but from some of the stories you hear, you would forgive for thinking that. People giving up their favourite treats, from sugar to chocolate to alcohol.... going to hear long devotional addresses, spending time alone soul-searching.... So what is it really all about?

Over the last 2000 years, three main elements have gone into the making of Lent. They are:

1. Preparation for Easter Baptism. The early Church (especially in Jerusalem, 4th century) came to use the forty days building up to Easter as a time to prepare their new converts for Baptism. For these converts, Lent became a time of great joyful anticipation.
2. Time for penance and reconciliation with the Church. Since early times, Lent has also been used a time when those who had sinned and been debarred from Communion did penance. Forgiveness and restoration brought peace and security.
3. A fast in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. This, too, has been popular since earliest times, and normally meant giving up food until the evening of each day. The point was not to punish oneself, but to abstain, in order to both focus the mind in prayer to God, and to appreciate the real value (if any) of what one was depriving oneself.

Lent has come to be 40 days in length, corresponding with Jesus' time in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13) Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and ends on Easter Eve, the forty days comprising the intervening weekdays, as Sundays do not count! In the Middle Ages, unbleached linen vestments were used; today violet is the liturgical colour.

What about the ashes? The OT has several references to the use of ashes as a sign of penitence. Thus the early penitents had ashes sprinkled over them. But this was such an effective 'visual aid' that soon everyone else wanted to take part in this custom as well - it was a way of saying publicly their response to the prophet Joel's call to "rend your hearts and not your garments". Today's Collect stresses the penitential character of the day and the readiness of God to always forgive and renew.

The custom of 'ashing' is where the priest traces an outline of the cross on the forehead of people at the altar. Like processing with candles on 2 February and palms on Palm Sunday, it was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained.

Receiving ashes for Anglicans remains optional. Since late medieval times a custom has been to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today

Mothering Sunday

25th March

ST JAMES

10.00 am Family service
11.15 am Eucharist



ST FRANCIS

10.30 am Family Eucharist

First the shopping - what a treat!
Choose and decide what we shall eat.
We know we mustn't be too rash
In spending of the church's cash,
And what a bonus when we see
The slogan "Buy One Get One Free" I
Journey over, home from shop
To cook, prepare and peel and chop -
A work of art to pack the boot
With pudding, casserole or fruit.
(We hope that nothing spills if we
Turn sharply or brake suddenly!)
Safely with meals on wheels arrive
To meet the team at half past five.
We count the plates and cook the
food
And pray it turns out as it should,
Flowers arranged and tables laid,
Recipes swapped and friendships made.
We've all done Alpha and we wish
To welcome guests with tasty dish
And hope they too will seek and search
And find - and come with us to church.
But if not now..... perhaps one
day.....

This is just a short P.S.
We do wash up and clear the mess
And then creep quietly away -
But we'll be back another day!

Who can know and who can say?

The 70th Anniversary of the Consecration of Saint Francis Church

EMMAUS

A Way of Life

This course of 10 weeks is for those wanting to find out more about and explore the basics of our faith. There will be two courses one from January to March, another from September to November.

Growth Courses will look at **Prayer** (February), **The Eucharist** (Lent), **The Bible** (April/May), and **Reaching Out** (November)



Throughout the year there will be a **monthly Sunday evening service** at St Francis Church. The format will be varied and the next two services are:



6pm, 25th March - **Stations of the Cross** followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

6pm, 29th April - **Evening Prayer** with homily and discussion

Other dates in the year are 27th May (**Songs of Praise**), 24th June (**Taizé-style service**), 15th July (**Pilgrimage Evening Prayer**), 16th September (**Harvest Evensong**), 7th October (**Franciscan Evening Office**), 4th November (**Commemoration of All Souls**), 2nd December (**Advent Service of Light**)



The Social Committee have planned events for each month of the year, and these include

Sat 10th March - **Bible Bring and Buy**
Sat 9th June - **Exhibition of Arts and Crafts**
Sat 8th Sep - **Autumn Book Fair**
Sat 8th Dec - **Caribbean Christmas Evening**



Walk with the Seasons

2pm on Sundays
29th April, 15th July and 14th October

Walks starting from St Francis Church to spend time in lovely countryside on our doorstep and seek to open our eyes to God's hand in creation around us, things experienced so deeply by our own patron St Francis. We will reflect on what each season might have to say about our own journey of faith and through life - and we will enjoy each other's company and time with one another.

Quiet Days and 'At Home Retreat'

Space and quiet for God in our lives is essential, particularly as we all lead lives of such busy-ness and activity.



Dates for **Quiet Days** are Saturdays 19th May, 16th June and 15th September.

'At Home Retreat'

Sunday 8th - Sunday 15th July



There are two main services of celebration of our 70th Anniversary:

10.30am Sunday 18th March 2001

Anniversary of the Opening of St Francis Church

Celebrant: The Ven John Morrison
Archdeacon of Oxford

followed by Bring and Share Lunch

(This date is 70 years to the day since the opening of our church.)

7.00pm Thursday 4th October

St Francis - Patronal Festival

Celebrant: The Rt Revd Richard Harries
Bishop of Oxford

followed by Bring and Share Buffet Party



20th - 27th October 2001



Pilgrimage to Assisi

A pilgrimage to see and experience some of the places

where St Francis himself lived and worked and prayed.