

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 James</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.

chronicle

A Lost Innocence

In the popular mind Easter is associated with newborn lambs and Easter rabbits. I was driving through mid-Wales last month and the fields were full of newborn lambs. In spite of the cold weather Spring seems slowly to be getting going. Yet on the same afternoon I came across huge smoking pyres in the fields where recently slaughtered livestock were being burned as a consequence of the foot and mouth epidemic. A little later I encountered the now familiar sight of vets in white overalls going about the grim task of culling infected animals.

The foot and mouth epidemic has followed hard on the severe floods of recent months. It is no wonder that some feel that we are going through apocalyptic times. Without over exaggerating, there is a connection between both catastrophes.

Intensive modern farming practices, the constant search for cheaper food, the consequences of global warming, all say something about how the human race is reaping the harvest of its failure to adhere to the fundamental laws of nature.

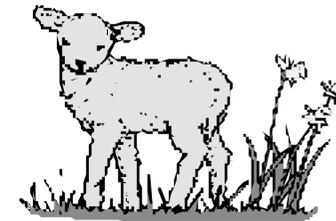
As Christians we place our trust in the God whom we know as Creator. Christians seek to order their world in harmony with the Creator and his creation. They have much to say about the abuse of the world of which we are all stewards.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter and we are reminded that 'God so loved the whole world that he gave his only Son'. The word *world* means the entire created order. The accounts of creation in Genesis teach us that humanity has a responsibility to care for God's world.

Healing, which comes from the same word as salvation, is offered to the world through Jesus. If humanity is to order the world aright, we need

to return to those basic principles which set our lives in harmony with God the creator.

Easter speaks of hope, of rebirth, of Resurrection. Whilst we may despair at what we see around us, Easter proclaims that great truth that God can overcome death with new life. But that hope and the promise of new life are dependent of our willingness to accept God as King of Creation and to walk in his ways.



Annual Meetings

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

THURSDAY 5th April 7.30 pm in St James Church

Elect your Churchwardens and Church Council members; look at our finances; and hear where we are going as a parish

ST FRANCIS CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Thursday 26th April 7.30 pm following the Eucharist

ST JAMES CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday 29th April 11.30 am following the morning service

Be involved in electing your church representatives, our review of the last year, and our thinking about the next year



Healing Service

Wednesday 24th April

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 6th May 6 o'clock

Speaker: Martin Peppiatt



Walk with the Seasons
2pm on Sunday 29th April



A walk 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.

(NB Foot & Mouth restrictions permitting - check with Fr John near the time)

Holy Week at Saint Francis

Holy Week is a vital part of the Church's year. The whole congregation is encouraged to share with us as we recall, encounter, and seek to enter deeply into the events of this critical period of our Lord's life and work.

PALM SUNDAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist

10.30 am Parish Eucharist and Procession

Monday in Holy Week

9.30 am Holy Eucharist

8.00 pm Night Prayer & Address

Tuesday in Holy Week

8.00 pm Night Prayer & Address

Wednesday in Holy Week

9.30 am Holy Eucharist

8.00 pm Night Prayer & Address

MAUNDY THURSDAY

10.00 am Children's Activity Morning

7.30 pm Sung Eucharist followed by
The Watch until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY

10.00 am Children's Activity Morning

11.15 am Way of the Cross - for young people - of all ages

2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY

9.15 am Morning Prayer (followed by breakfast)

7.30 pm The Easter Vigil

EASTER DAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist

10.30 am FAMILY EUCHARIST



Monthly Sunday Evening Service at St Francis Church.

The next service will be
6.00 pm, 29th April - Evening Prayer with homily and discussion

Easter Joy!

Easter! Sunrise! Light! Triumph! Rejoice! Life! Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! These are the words that spring to mind on Easter morning itself. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ - the supreme deed in the history of the salvation of

the world. Through his death on the cross and his resurrection, Jesus Christ has given mankind the promise of eternal life.

Easter is by far the oldest of Christian festivals. There has never been an 'Easter' unobserved since the original. With the stress St Paul laid upon Christ's death and resurrection in his epistles, we may be sure that all of his churches observed the day with great joy and thanksgiving. So each year while the Jews celebrated the Passover, and recalled the lamb whose blood had saved their ancestors, the Christians looked to a different Lamb of salvation.

From earliest Christian times, the Saturday, or Easter Eve, has been celebrated as a period of vigil, of watching and waiting for the Resurrection*. It was often celebrated by lighting bonfires or Paschal candles. In many countries lighted candles are carried through the streets. At the beginning of some Easter Eve services the church is in darkness. Then each member of the congregation lights a small candle from one large Paschal candle. Soon the whole church is blazing with life.

Easter Time is often thought of as the days leading up to Easter Sunday. However, the Christian Calendar established the forty days before Easter Sunday as Lent. It is the forty days after Easter that is Easter Season. It begins with that joy-filled day when Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and continues through to Ascension, forty days later. That is when the Risen Christ made his last earthly appearance to the Disciples and 'ascended' into 'the clouds'.

* The Easter Vigil takes place at St Francis' Church on Easter Eve at 7.30 pm



Holy Week and Easter at Saint James

PALM SUNDAY – 8th April

10.00 am Palm Sunday Procession and Eucharist - *meet in The Hut*

6.30 pm United Service - *Iffley Parish Church*

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

8.00 pm Compline and Address

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

8.00 pm Compline and Address

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

8.00 pm Compline and Address

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 12th April

7.00 pm The Maundy Supper - *John Bunyan Church*

8.30 pm The Watch in St Luke's Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY – 13th April

10.00 am Family Service – followed by *Hot Cross Buns*

2.00 pm The Last Hour – music, readings and address

EASTER DAY – 15th April

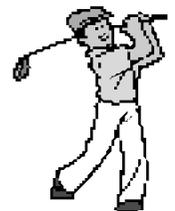
8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Eucharist



ON COURSE

The vicar who sneaked off regularly mid-week for a round of golf instructed his wife to tell the parish he was away on a course. He calmed his conscience by persuading himself that he had a ministry to the handicapped.



Rosanne interviews



Sometimes when I've finished one of my interviews a question which I wished I'd asked pops into my head. This month I wish I'd asked Pat what her favourite song is especially as she volunteered that her favourite hymn is 'Just as I am'. Would it be presumptuous of me to venture 'All you need is love'? I think that sums up this particular lady. See what you think

Born to parents enduring the hardships of war-time London, she was their much-loved only child. By 1949 her parents had saved enough to buy a new home in St Albans. With what little furniture they had managed to salvage from the blitz and Pat's small collection of toys piled into an old army ambulance they set off to their new home in a pretty rural lane outside the city. She was thrilled to be a country girl and enjoyed her daily walk to catch the school bus. The new home was modern, even enjoying the luxury of a television! She has many happy memories of childhood including a special visit to the Festival of Britain in 1951.

At secondary school she came across a headmistress she describes as "unfair" in her dealings with her pupils. This turned Pat into something of a rebel which is how she sees herself today – "always on the side of the underdog". On the whole, though, she enjoyed school particularly her history lessons. She left to become a student at Watford Technical College intending to train for nursing or as a dietitian. By this time, however, her father's career as a chemical engineer changed course. He set up his own business in the pharmaceutical industry. Pat joined him to help with the administration of the new company, leaving behind her earlier ambitions.

21-year-old Pat was invited to a party in Oxford where she met a distinguished gentleman who had the most profound effect on her life. In true fairy-storybook fashion he turned and looked at her. It was love at first sight for both of them. And when she looks at you with her blue eyes shining you know it still is, every single day. It was an old-fashioned courtship; her weekend visits to Oxford (chaperoned by Len's mum) leading to their wedding day in 1966. They set up home in a cottage in Wantage which cost £1,000, Len's entire savings. Pat got a job as technical and laboratory assistant in a local school and later did some teaching. Married life was idyllic. They had nice neighbours, a lively social life and soon Nicholas, the first of their four children, was born.

A move to their home in Dene Road found them making friends with the "lovely folk" in the area, as Pat describes them. Three years later another baby, Sarah, came along. After another three year gap twins Jenri and Daniel completed their family. All this time Len, a confirmed Christian, had allowed his church-going to decline. Bed-time prayers were said regularly with the children and God was part of all their lives but total commitment seemed to be on hold. Until one glorious autumn day when the family were on a blackberrying expedition across Shotover. The children ran on ahead and Pat and Len experienced a spiritual moment of incredible joy, warmth and power. Everything slipped into slow-motion and each of them knew (because they compared notes later) that God's love had filled their whole being. They came to realise that they needed loving Christian fellowship and chose to attend St Francis' church. Pat says that she had met such kindy people at fêtes and jumble sales. They realised that many of the "lovely folk" in their neighbourhood worshipped there. Thanks to Fr Ross Thompson's dynamism Pat and the children were confirmed. Len, who had waited until they could all take communion together, was delighted.

Soon Pat was drawn into the life of the church. She was elected to both the social and church committees, then the PCC. For fourteen years she helped to run St Francis' Brownie Pack and joined the Mothers' Union. She is still as involved as ever. She no longer helps with Brownies instead she is deputy church warden and has just become Branch Leader (chairperson) of the Cowley branch of the Mothers' Union. Within the wider community she is an enthusiastic worker for justice. She is a volunteer on the Youth Offender Panel.

Not only is she surrounded by friends, family and a husband whom she loves but she and Len have just rescued a delightful golden retriever who has a penchant for a game of football! Almost every day Pat is out on the field tackling, passing and dribbling and undoubtedly keeping very fit.

What sort of child were you?

A cherished only child, encouraged to be a tomboy- my mother dressed me in dungarees. I was brought up in a non-sexist family where women had an equal role.

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

It was sleeping in my childhood until God 'found' Len and me.

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

From the time I met Len until now, including the joys of bringing up our four children.

Are there any aspects of modern life which you dislike?

The breaking up of society. We've lost our sense of mutual caring.

What's best about life today?

There's a certain and wonderful freedom for women to be themselves. The opportunities exist now for everyone to play their equal part in society.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Walking, time with the family, coaching holidays (Len and I have recently discovered them) and playing football with the dog.

What makes you laugh?

Being with people is fun. In our family we wind each other up and that's fun.

If you had a Holy Wand what would you change?

I would bring peace and harmony to the world. I wish that people were more humane to each other.

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

I'd like to return to San Francisco. I find it a very special place.

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

I would like to be a grandma, to continue with my youth justice work, and I plan to become computer literate.

Pat Chung

