

## 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

## Count Me In!

I expect we have all completed our Census forms now and answered the implied question "Who am I?"

Black British, Irish, Asian, British? With St George's Day played down by government (if not by the 1000 plus Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs in the Templars Square parade service) and recent pre election race controversies, national identity, especially for the English has become topical. Jeremy Paxman in his book "The English" recognises the uneasiness that many feel but believes that the "attitudes of mind that made the English culture what it is - individualism, pragmatism, love of words and ..cussedness.. - are unchanged."

Perhaps these mixed feelings are not so bad because in the Bible, in Genesis, the common humanity of all men and women is affirmed. Although some nations can trace their origins right back to the earliest Biblical times, the Bible generally views nations as an ambivalent historical phenomenon.

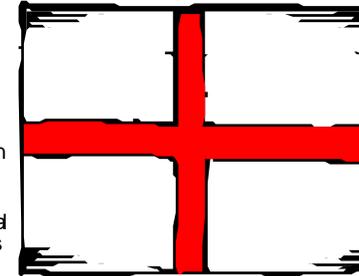
However Isaiah 60 and Revelation 21 and 22 suggest that something of national identity may still exist when the peoples and nations come before God on the Day of Judgement, and even perhaps continue into heaven. So the old jokes about the Welsh male voice choirs may have some substance!

For the Christian however, the book of Hebrews draws us away from any strident nationalism on this earth to a higher focus in chapter 13 verse 14 "For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come". Whilst we may sing "I vow to thee my country" our hearts should be more drawn to the line "yet there's another country".

Not that Christians look down upon cultural and national differences, rather we celebrate this diversity as human beings, and in the Church we are called to show how different peoples can live

together in the love of God. Not all becoming the same; indeed a recent survey showed that churches with an ethnic mix are more like to grow, and we rejoice in this parish in the different nationalities in our congregations.

So who am I? Whatever box I ticked on the Census form, and whether I prefer Chicken Tikka Masala to Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding, the bottom line is - I am a child of God and I am loved by God. How can I be sure? Because Jesus died, rose again and ascended into that heavenly city where he awaits all who follow Him.



Vernon

# Ascension Day

Thursday 24th May

ST FRANCIS

7.00 pm Holy Eucharist

ST JAMES

9.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Sung Eucharist



## Healing Service

Wednesday 30th May

7.30 pm

St James Church

Receive Jesus' promise of healing through personal prayer



## morning prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church

Saturday Mornings

9.15 am



## UNITED PRAISE FOR PENTECOST

The Churches in Cowley & District

meet to celebrate Pentecost:

**Rose Hill Methodist Church**

Sunday 3rd June

6.30 pm

Bring & Share food to follow



### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DEBT IS CANCELLED?

The efforts of the worldwide Jubilee 2000 campaign to cancel the debts of the poorest countries are beginning to bear fruit in the lives of ordinary people. Ten-year old Herbert Asio from Uganda is just one of them.

Uganda is currently benefiting from debt relief amounting to around £25 million. This is placed in a special fund, the Poverty Action Fund (PAF), which is being used to increase the incomes of the poorest people and to improve their quality of life. For Herbert and his family this is beginning to make a tremendous change.

Herbert attends Asuret Primary School and for the first time in his life he can go to school without his mother having to pay fees. Although Herbert still works in an old classroom, younger children have brand new classrooms. At the moment there are 16 classrooms for 1,300 children, and thanks to PAF the school plans to build a further seven rooms within five years. Herbert's headmaster, Eleru John Brown is proud of the school and what is happening there. He says: 'Pray for peace in our country. Where there is peace, there is development and poverty will gradually disappear.'

At home, Herbert lives with his mother Grace who is a farmer. She is benefiting from PAF in her everyday life and in her work. Money has been allocated to repair water sources, and Grace now has water close to her home. And thanks to advice she has received from a PAF-funded local agricultural extension officer, Grace is able to make her five acres of family land much more productive.

### EVERY HOME SHOULD HAVE ONE

Grace and Herbert's lives have also been changed by the arrival of a cow, sent through the 'Send a Cow' scheme which is operated locally by Christian Aid's partner, the Soroti Diocese Development Office (SDDO). Herbert loves the cow whom he has called Ida and feeds her on elephant grass. He would like to milk her as well but his fingers aren't yet strong enough. Grace says: 'I've had Ida since July 1999. She had a bull calf, Samuel, and produces 10 to 12 litres of milk per day. I feed her on elephant grass and a new food supplement called nutimix, which I get free because I'm taking part in a trial project. Milk sells for about 25p per litre and the money has enabled me to have some ploughing done. I've also used the cow dung and urine for the garden and have seen a great improvement.'

Grace is now the local chairperson for 'Send a Cow' and is also one of the local co-ordinators for the development work of the Church of Uganda.

### Grace's prayer

*O Lord, Creator of all the earth,*

*Thank you for the mercy you have always had for us Ugandans, and for giving us your Son to sacrifice his life for us.*

*In the same way, Father, you touched the hearts of our brothers and sisters overseas to work for our families, our schools and our health.*

*Father as time goes by, may we also be able to help our needy brothers and sisters.*

*Lord, give us the Spirit of love through all our lives. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Christian Aid**

## **THE NEW CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2001/2**

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting last month the following were elected:

- \* *Churchwardens:* John Shreeve and Gwen Rankin  
\* *Deanery Synod:* Gwen Rankin, Rosanne Butler, Pat Chung, Crystal Hewlett  
*PCC Members:* Brian Lawson, Helen Doling, Una Dean, Rosemary Marshall, Norah Shallow, Marlene Shreeve, June Smith, Thelma Telling.  
\* *also PCC members.*
- Deputy Wardens:* Rosanne Butler and Pat Chung

### **Monthly Sunday evening service at St Francis Church.**

The next service will be:

6.00 pm 27th May

## **SONGS OF PRAISE**



Emmaus

## **THE BIBLE**

A 4-week course of exploration

Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm at St Francis Vicarage starting on 8th May

If you would like to come please speak to Fr John



St Francis Church

## **QUIET DAY**

**Saturday 19th May**

### **St Mary's Convent, Wantage**

A day for all those who long for the time and space to explore and adventure with God. Please take a notice from the back of church if you are interested or see Lynn Trainor or Fr. John

## **SISTER MARGARET ANNE COMES TO COWLEY**

*A nun from a local convent joins the clergy team in September for three years. Sr Margaret Anne from All Saints' Convent in East Oxford will be coming as a newly ordained Deacon to our parish. Being a Non-Stipendiary Minister, Sr Margaret Anne will work two days a week within the parish as well as assisting on Sundays at both St James and St Francis. In 2002 she will be ordained a priest and will exercise her priestly ministry amongst us. She writes:*

I was born near Brentwood in Essex in a picturesque village where my father was the vicar. I later went to an Anglican girls' boarding-school in Hertfordshire. In 1975 between school and university I took a year out and went with a voluntary organisation to work with mentally handicapped children in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was an eye opening experience to visit a black African township in Soweto while I was there. I studied English at Durham University and loved it. Then I spent some six weeks doing voluntary work again in the Gaza Strip alongside Palestinians, which was a fascinating and worthwhile experience. After training as a teacher in Exeter, I taught English in two secondary schools and also taught English as a foreign language.



It was one September after this that I experienced a strong sense of call to full-time ministry within the Church. It took some time to realise that this would eventually lead to the double call of both religious life and Ordination to the priesthood.

Before joining All Saints' Sisters of the Poor in East Oxford I worked in retreat houses on both Holy Island and Iona. It was marvellous preparation for the religious life as well as a good introduction to Celtic spirituality. I have been at All Saints now for nearly ten years, making my life profession several years ago. For six years it I have been Guest Sister to the Community and have also worked part-time in our parish of Cowley St John.

I am now fast approaching Ordination as a Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral on 30<sup>th</sup> September. I look forward very much then to serving my title in the Parish of Cowley. It will be so good to meet you all in the autumn and to journey together.

## **Sister Margaret Anne**

# Rosanne interviews



"What's the matter with kids today?" How often older people say that. A while back someone even wrote a song about it. Well, after interviewing Miss Louisa Stanway (aged 14) my answer would be "very little". Here is a young person with an amazing and refreshing attitude to life.

The only child of Fr. Peter and Dr. Helena Stanway, Louisa spent much of her early childhood in Cowley. Now a student at Matthew Arnold School it is clear she's having the time of her life. Louisa's great loves are music and drama. The violin is her main instrument which she plays in the school orchestra. Already she has performed in numerous concerts and has been with the orchestra on a trip to Germany. She also plays recorder and is teaching herself the oboe. She is hoping for good grades in her GCSEs though she has SATs (Standardised Attainment Targets) to take this year. She is very phlegmatic about these: "I'm not too worked up about them", she declares. Her big ambition is to get to university and study law. The interest in law has developed since her school took part in a 'court competition', using the magistrates' courts in Oxford in which to construct and conduct mock trials. In one of these Louisa, although she felt that the 'defendant' was guilty, was given the task of defence lawyer. She presented her case so convincingly that they won a 'not guilty' verdict.

She and her parents now live in Kennington where they moved to care for her elderly grandmother. She misses Cowley a bit, though many of her school friends live locally. Her interest in music is wide-reaching including concerts like 'Party in the Park' and gigs played by another friend, David Tomlinson. His group has just recorded an album and there is a single coming out in a week or two. David plays bass guitar and Louisa describes their style as pop/indie.

She considers herself fortunate to be an only child enjoying her own space and says she's seldom lonely. She values the privileges which have come her way, especially opportunities to travel. She has already been around the world with Australia, New Zealand and Canada – her first love – amongst the countries she has visited. She has learned to ski and plans to do more in the future. The pilgrimage to Assisi in October will be her first visit to Italy and she can hardly wait.

At the moment her main priority is sorting out friendships and making decisions about the kind of people with whom she wants to associate. She certainly has a wise head on those young shoulders.

# Louisa Stanway

**Is there one person who has a strong influence on your life?**

My friend Michelle, she is quite close. She seems to know what I am thinking and how to solve a problem.

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

We had just arrived in Cowley and we went to a pancake party in the Hut. I remember Dad scoffing down pancakes, Mum talking to everyone. I was only 6 and I was just there not knowing what to do or say.

**What sort of person are you?**

Totally mad! I think I'm quite a bouncy character. I have a lot to say at school. I certainly speak up if I don't agree with things.

**Has your faith been with you throughout your life?**

I was never forced to go to church but at home God is always there in everything that happens, the way we live our lives. God is very much a part of my life.

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

On TV they have adverts about compensation. People are encouraged to sue anyone about anything. That is so wrong and really gets up my nose.

**What's best about life today?**

There are so many things to discover and give you new experiences. They make you a broader person.

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

Music of all kinds, playing and listening. Holidays, finding out about new places – lying on a beach is not my scene. I love cars, especially fast sports cars, and TV dramas.

**What makes you laugh?**

Silly accidents set me off. If I'm happy I can laugh at almost anything.

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

The way people view themselves. Because I was large I had very low self-esteem, this can eat you up inside. Now I'm a different person. My wand would get people to take ten steps back and assess everything more clearly.

**If you weren't doing what you're doing now, what would be the alternative?**

I'd love to go back to Canada and I also want to visit South Africa.

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

At 24? Studying law, just beginning my career and playing in an orchestra for

fun.

