

Journeying Together

I wonder how much you like journeys? Perhaps you find them stressful? Will the car start? Will all the luggage fit in the boot? Will the train arrive on time so we can catch the connection? Will the flight be delayed, and will it be safe?

Journeys can be exciting and full of adventure. But they can also be challenging. Exploring new terrain can be thrilling; it also has moments of anxiety as we explore the unknown.

We have now reached the point in Lent when we are soon to enter into Passiontide and Holy week. This is indeed a "journey" we travel together.

At All Saints' Convent on a Saturday March 16th there will be a Parish Quiet Day to give us an opportunity to reflect together on Jesus' Passion.

In Holy Week the journey unfolds like a drama. From Palm Sunday we re-enact in our worship the last days of Jesus' life on earth. As we journey with Jesus we also journey with each other. We become the crowd who exuberantly welcomed Jesus as he entered Jerusalem on a donkey; the same crowd who cried out for his crucifixion just a few days later. The crowds were fickle then. We can be too. We need the encouragement of one another to help keep ourselves on the right path.

On Maundy Thursday the drama continues, full of poignant meaning.

Jesus gives his new commandment, "love one another", and breaks bread and shares a cup of wine with his closest followers. The atmosphere is one of loving intimacy and fellowship. Then in the Garden of Gethsemane there is the dereliction and anguish of the shadow of the Cross as Jesus (and we) keep vigil.

On Good Friday Jesus in his death on the Cross unites himself completely with the worst that humanity ever has to face. There is no suffering of ours that Jesus has not already willingly carried for us in his day.

Holy Saturday follows: a day of waiting. All journeys include moments of waiting, when nothing seems to be happening. We wait. We watch. Finally, the journey climaxes

into the joy of arrival with the glories of Easter Day.

Holy Week is a spiritual journey as eventful and meaningful as any journey we might undergo geographically. Much of its meaning is found in our call to journey together. So this Holy Week may we be inspired and drawn to attend these moving liturgies as we follow Jesus on the way to Jerusalem, through suffering and death to the resurrection joy of Easter.

Sr. Margaret Anne



Chronicle

Sunday Evening Praise

Worship,
teaching,
prayer
ministry
in an
informal
setting



Sunday
6th April
6 o'clock

Healing Service

Wednesday
29th March
7.30 p.m.

St James Church

Receive Jesus'
promise of healing
through personal
prayer

Holy Week and Easter at Saint James

PALM SUNDAY – 24th March

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

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

8.00 pm Holy Week Devotional Music -
Rosehill Methodist Church

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Address

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Holy Week Healing Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 28th March

7.30 pm The Maundy Supper
9.00 pm The Watch in St Luke's Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY – 29th March

10.00 am Family Service –
followed by Hot Cross Buns
2.00 pm The Last Hour –
music, readings and address

EASTER DAY – 31st March

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Family Eucharist



Annual Meetings

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

THURSDAY 21st March 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 25th April 7.30 pm following the Eucharist

ST JAMES CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday 28th 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



From the Warden's Pew

by Gwen Ranklin

A parish does not exist in isolation, it is a part of a very large organisation, the Church of England, which has many people and organisations involved in parish administration. Its clergy, Churchwardens, lay officers and P C C work and perform many duties in accordance with the rules and Canon Law set by the Church of England.

There are about 16,000 parish churches in active use in England. The parish is an area or under the joint care of the bishop and the Incumbent. Some parishes are within a Team Ministry such as ours which have a Team Rector, Team Vicars, curates, non stipendiary priests, and licensed lay ministers.

Each parish has two Churchwardens and a Parochial Church Council. Those parishes with more than one Church usually have Church Committees which deal with issues particular to one church and congregation but yet are responsible to the P C C. In Cowley, equal numbers of people are elected to the P C C from both our churches so that each congregation has representatives when business parish is conducted.

Churchwardens

The Office of Churchwarden is an ancient office probably going back earlier than the 13th century. Traditionally Churchwardens and their Sidesmen have been chosen at the Easter Vestry held in Easter week. Churchwardens are usually chosen annually at this annual parish Church Meeting which used to be known as the Easter Vestry. This is separate from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting though these days they are usually held together. By law these meetings have to have taken place before April 30th each year. Those entitled to vote at the Annual

Parochial Meeting are and

- ♦ Anyone on the electoral roll of the parish
- ♦ Anyone who lives in the parish and whose name is on the register of local government electors.

After the Churchwardens have been chosen only those on the Parochial Electoral Roll of the parish are entitled to vote on the business of the APCM - electing Church Councillors and other parish business.

On January 1st this year a new Churchwardens' Measure came into force. A few changes have been made. Candidates must now be nominated and seconded in writing on a special form and the person nominated must sign the form confirming they are willing to stand and that they have not been disqualified from being a charity trustee or are a company director who has been declared bankrupt. Persons convicted of certain offences against children or young people are also disqualified. This form must be seen by the parish priest before the election so that if a particular person nominated might give rise to serious difficulty between priest and Warden in carrying out their respective functions, a parish priest may, before the election, make a statement to the effect that only one churchwarden is to be elected by the meeting. In that event the priest will appoint the other churchwarden from among persons nominated, the name of that person would be announced before an election is conducted.

The Churchwardens are summoned to attend the Visitation (an annual Wardens' meeting) and during this service they make a public declaration before the Diocesan Registrar, "I solemnly and sincerely declare that I will faithfully and diligently perform the duties of the Office of churchwarden". The Archdeacon then delivers his charge (address) to the Churchwardens who have been elected.

The Churchwardens who have been in office the previous year are asked to answer a number of questions, known as Articles of Enquiry, sent by the Archdeacon on behalf of the Bishop. These Articles of Enquiry deal with a range of matters concerning the parish. For example this year the questions concern initiatives that the parish is taking in response to *Sharing Life* and how many new people have joined the Electoral Roll in the last three years. Churchwardens had many duties some

of the main ones are

- ♦ To form a link between the Bishop and the parish
- ♦ To form a link between congregations and their parish priests
- ♦ To care and pray for their clergy and their families, and to ensure that expenses are paid and due time is taken off duty. They also care for the congregation, encouraging its members in their Christian faith and healing quarrels divisions which invariably arrives within a church family
- ♦ To make sure that the clergy do not have to do the main administrative work of the parish
- ♦ Responsible for the allocation of seats to the congregation and for keeping order during services and in the churchyard. (they may use reasonable force if necessary)

In practice Sidespersons do many duties such as welcoming people in Church, counting the collections and the many other tasks on behalf of the wardens. It is the Churchwardens responsibility to arrange the Sidesperson's rota. They also inspect the church buildings and keep a check on all the items belonging to the church. Once a year they record this in the Church Property book as well as keeping up to date the logbook listing all alterations, repairs and any structural additions to the Church. A report is given to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by the Churchwardens and also to the Archdeacon through the Area Dean's Visitation usually held every one or two years.

Churchwardens are also trustees of charities linked to the parish. *All information taken from "A Guide for Every Parish."*

Correction:

The Miss Rogers whom Brian Lawson recalls in Rosanne's interview over the page is of course **Jean** Rogers and not Doris Rogers as mentioned! Many still talk with affection of our dear friend Jean.



Rosanne interviews Brian Lawson

Carol Lawson, wife of this month's interviewee, knows a thing or two about being swept off her feet! When a tall, handsome young man waved to her each day on his way to work from his beaten-up old moped, Carol waved back. Having decided that it was time to get closer acquainted one morning he slowed down, stuck out an arm, clasped her around the waist and – swept her off her feet. The scene was the Blackbird Leys bridge, not the most romantic nor, let's be honest, the safest place to make such an overture. Well, it worked. They made their first date and have been happily together ever since.

Brian's earliest memories are of parents, grandparents, his brothers and sister living together in a terraced house in Hythe Bridge Street where Blackwells now have their large premises. The garden sloped down to the railway and beyond were fields and Tumbling Bay bathing place. He remembers his granny using an old stone copper to do the family laundry and also how they would offer cups of tea to the fair folk waiting to set up the St Giles' fair each September.

His parents and the children moved to the new housing estate on Rose Hill and it was first at Singletree Nursery, then at Rose Hill Primary School that his education

began. He didn't really like school though he describes his childhood with affection, especially the times spent with his brothers wandering the fields above Iffley. He had constant sinus trouble as a child and thinks that his poor attendance upset the early years of education. He had a happy reunion with his old teacher Miss Rogers (Doris Rogers who many of us remember) when they were both members of the same Alpha group at St James'.

After passing 11+ exam he attended Southfield School. He still admires the sacrifices his parents made to afford the uniform. At 15 he left to take up an apprenticeship at Nuffield Press. He became a monotype-caster operator and (since you asked!) that involved casting individual letters for type-setting. It was hot, noisy, hazardous work involving the use of molten metal. A good night out in those days for Brian was dancing at the town hall or Carfax Assembly Rooms. Ironically his lovely Carol, whom he married in 1968, is not a dancer. Early married life saw a move to Reading, then back to Oxford by which time their first daughter was born. He is the proud dad of Karen, Andrew and Stephen. He describes his family as "everything". After several moves he and Carol saved hard and bought their present

home on the estate behind Cowley Barracks. Throughout the years he continued in the printing business.

Like many fathers he was involved in organising his daughter's wedding, especially as she was living in Australia. She wanted to be married in her home parish church, St James'. So Brian contacted Fr. Stephen and knew as soon as he walked into the building that he was drawn into the church. He joined an *Alpha* group and felt the Holy Spirit change his life. He told me how on the Holy Spirit Day he experienced a physical presence sweep through his body, moving him profoundly. It would seem that God had plans for him, for after a painful period of redundancy from Nuffield Press, he applied for a post with the United Bible Society, based in Crawley in Sussex. It is a world-wide organisation sending bibles and other biblical material to every country on earth. His areas of contact are Europe and the Middle East. The thirst for biblical texts, stories, videos, tapes etc is huge. He cites, for example, the renewal of the church in Russia after *Glasnost*. Despite a long drive to and from work daily he loves his job and has many stories to tell. He finds much of the work very humbling. He travels to many of 'his' countries, meets special

printers and distributors and finds life at the moment completely rewarding.

How would you describe yourself as a child?

Very shy, I hated school. I was a keen scout though, First Oxford (Rose Hill). I became troop-leader.

Do you have any memories of childhood which make you think, "I'll never forget...?"

One thing – my father was a driver at Hicks & Son, the greengrocers. They used to deal with big hands of bananas. I was there one day and a huge spider ran out. The man showed me the cold store where they kept the bananas. It was dark in there but they took me to see the foreign spiders. They pushed me in and shut the door. The whole place was hung with webs. I was only in there a few minutes but I've been scared of spiders ever since.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

Not really but He has been for the last six years, that's for sure.

What do you think of modern society?

The best thing is communication – emails and the phone mean that we can keep in touch. I talk to my son, Andrew, and my daughter, Karen, all the time. Carol calls Karen my 'other woman'!

What makes you disappointed with life today?

I get philosophical about the things we call problems in our lives. When you see what real

problems there are in the world, in the context of what people really suffer, we don't have to suffer at all.

What kind of things do you do in your spare time?

Nearly all of them begin with 'S' – sun, sand, sea, snorkelling, seafood. I have even snorkelled with sharks. I swim twice a week. I love squash, but a back problem has stopped that. Carol and I enjoy walking – oh, and a good glass of wine.

What makes you laugh?

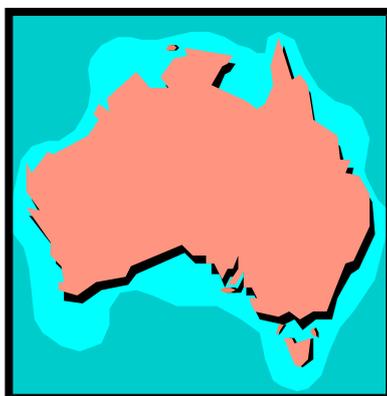
'The Good Life' on TV, (hilarious) and 'Fawlty Towers'.

Do you have ambitions for the future?

I want to retire to Australia and enjoy life. Until I'd been there I wouldn't have believed how happy and laid back life could be.

If you could change something in a spectacular way what would it be?

I want man to understand man. Ordinary people just want to get on with their lives and we will when we all understand each other.



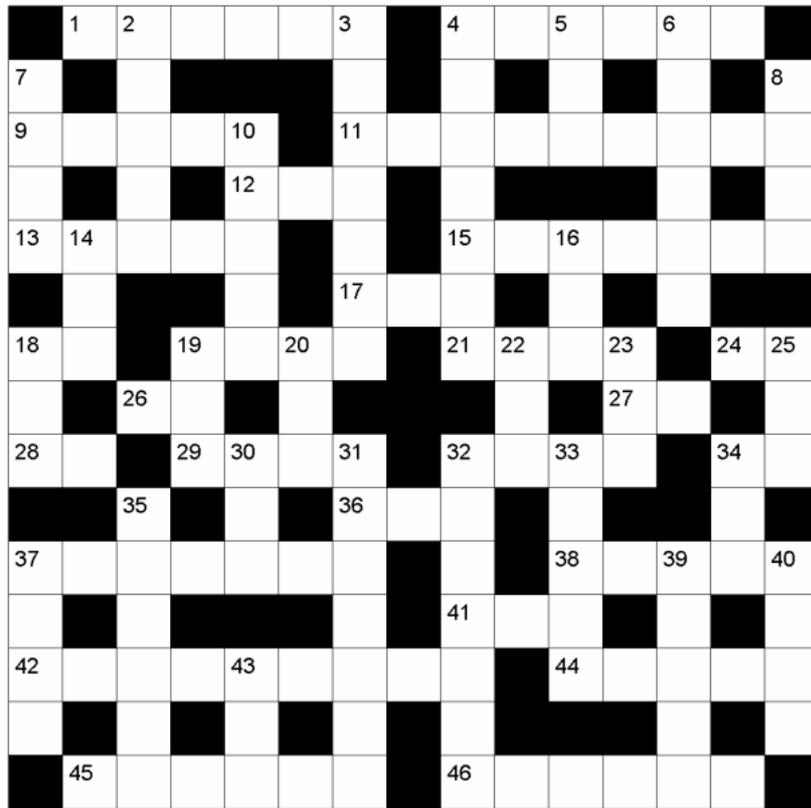
Changes to the Sunday Morning Service at St James



Over the last twelve months we have seen a considerable number of new faces in the congregation including children. The Church Committee is aware of the need to provide newcomers and those "testing the waters" with a service with a lighter feel suitable for children and adults. To meet this need it is proposed to make a change in our morning service once a month. On the **second Sunday** of each month, there will be an **All Age Family Service** lasting about 50 minutes and will not include Communion. The Church Committee has also accepted the gift of 120 new hymnbooks to replace the *Mission Praise* books for use at this monthly service as well as at other services thus removing the need to print some more contemporary songs on a separate sheet of paper.

Since this Family Service will not include Communion, there will be on the same Sunday, a traditional Eucharist with hymns at 11.15 am each month. This later service will be of particular help to those who have difficulty in getting to St James for 10 o'clock. Coffee will be available in the Church Centre from 10.45 onwards for those arriving for the 11.15 service or leaving the 10.00 am service. We very much hope that most of the existing 10.00 am congregation will support this new Family Service. Some may come to both services, others just to one. By making this change, the committee feel that the needs of a greater number of people will be met.

March Crossword



- 19 Extinct flightless bird (3)
 20 Sticky substance (3)
 22 The first woman and wife of Adam (3)
 23 The second son of Noah (3)
 25 Turkish headwear (3)
 30 Floor covering (3)
 31 The first Christian martyr (7)
 32 The second son of David and Bathsheba, and builder of the temple (7)
 33 The disciple who betrayed Jesus (5)
 34 Type of submachine gun (3)
 35 The sister of Mary and Lazarus (6)
 37 Small yeast cake (4)
 39 Miscellany (5)
 40 Raised platform (4)
 43 Meadow (3)

ACROSS

- 1 A Gentile prophet of the Old Testament (6)
 4 Capital of Zambia (6)
 9 One of the gifts brought by the Wise Men (5)
 11 A Biblical term for a huge scaly monster (9)
 12 Room within a harem (3)
 13 Class (5)
 15 Abilities (7)
 17 Tint (3)
 18 Otherwise (2)
 19 The Three Wise Men of the East (4)
 21 Third son of Adam and Eve (4)
 24 Providing (2)
 26 Perform (2)
 27 Part of the verb 'to be' (2)
 28 In the direction of (2)
 29 One of the twelve books of the Minor Prophets (4)
 32 Parliament of Poland (4)
 34 Job was a resident of which land (2)
 36 How many fish did Christ have to feed the 5000 (3)

- 37 Small animal (7)
 38 Who was the slayer of Goliath (5)
 41 Wood sorrel (3)
 42 The town which was the birthplace of Christ (9)
 44 Who was the wife of Abram (5)
 45 An earlier name for the land of Palestine (6)
 46 Capital of the Bahamas (6)

DOWN

- 2 The brother of Moses (5)
 3 The last prophetic book of the Old Testament (7)
 4 The members of the tribe of Levi (7)
 5 Ocean (3)
 6 Native Hawaiian priest (6)
 7 Smoke combined with fog (4)
 8 Taverns (4)
 10 The first of the Minor Prophetic books (5)
 14 Organ of hearing (3)
 16 Who's wife was turned into a pillar of salt (3)
 18 Cereal grass (3)

February's Solution

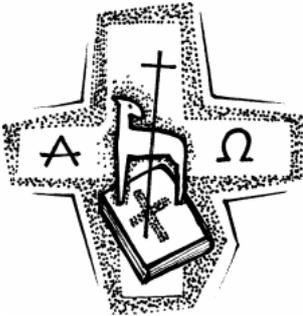


Fr Peter Retires

Fr. Peter is to take early retirement from 1 April this year. He will, however, continue to be involved at St Francis' Church on a limited and occasional basis, having been given the Bishop's 'Permission to Officiate' whilst remaining in the Diocese.

Morning Prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church
Saturday Mornings
9.15 am
all welcome



Quiet Day at All Saints' Convent with Sr Margaret Anne

Saturday 16th March
10.30 am - 3.30 pm

Preparing for Holy Week



*take time out to be quiet to
listen and to pray*

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



Sharing Life



Tuesday 19th March 7 - 9 pm,

Saturday 23rd March 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

you are invited to one or other of these
meetings to join with us as we look to the future
and seek God's will for our church.

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist
6.00 pm	Evening Praise <i>[1st Sunday of the month]</i>

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00 am	Holy Eucharist
10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>

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 Francis</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>
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</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	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast – <i>St Francis</i>

Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Confessions and Home Communion can be made with any of the clergy.

Days Off

Stephen has Friday off and Fr John Monday. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternate Sundays

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:

Sr Margaret Anne
All Saints Convent
St Mary's Road
Tel: 249127

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 Ranklin
Tel: 451417
John Shreeve
Tel: 717987

Deputy Wardens:

Rosanne Butler
Tel: 453257
Pat Chung
Tel: 767124

COWLEY ASIAN FELLOWSHIP

Fr Wazir Chand
Tel: 714160

HALL BOOKINGS OFFICER:
773620

weekdays only