

In the Shadow of Evil

The last few weeks have seen the nation saddened at the plight of Jessica and Holly, the two Cambridgeshire school girls. Reminiscent of the murder of James Bulger, and the Moors Murders many years ago, these horrific killings shake the nation to the core. In a few weeks time we shall be commemorating the September 11th terrorist attacks on Washington and New York. We need no reminding of the presence of evil in our midst. These high profile tragedies are more than matched by less publicised, but equally horrific acts, which pass the world by. Each has its own affect on the lives of families, friends and communities. Yet it is all too easy to forget genocide and murder perpetrated by conflicting religious or ethnic groups as other crises compete for our attention on the world stage.

We seek an explanation for the evil lurking deep within the human psyche. There seems no protection from such catastrophe. Religious conviction offers no immunity. How many Jews, Muslims or Christians have pleaded with their God in the face of the enemy? Why is there no response? Does no one listen?

It is tempting to offer glib crumbs of comfort in the face of evil. A belief in the ultimate triumph of God over evil is little consolation for parents of murdered children or the relatives of villages slaughtered because they

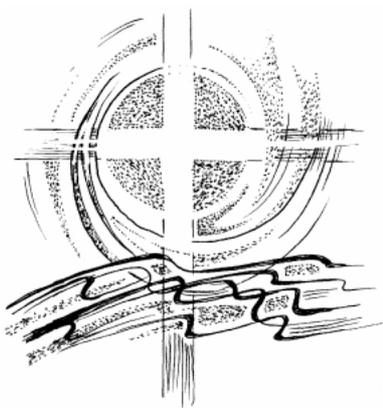
were members of the wrong race or tribe.

God does not control the warped mind or the evil desire. That is the lesson of history and the bitter testimony of experience. Yet for the believer, of whatever faith, there is still the belief that humanity can change. There is hope. There is the prospect of a change of heart – true repentance. In Jesus we see this power to change released into the lives of diminished human beings. In his meeting with Zacchaeus, Mary

Magdalene and with his co-crucified, we see Jesus pointing to a change of heart, to forgiveness and the prospect of a new beginning.

In the secular world in which we live, so obsessed with individual human rights, consumerism

and the pursuit of pleasure, there is the urgent need to rediscover the inner spiritual life which directs the heart and mind and action of each and every one of us. Christianity offers a unique insight into how change can be initiated. We see it exemplified in the resurrection of Jesus. It is lived out in every generation by those who seek to follow the ways of justice, mercy and peace.



Chronicle

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sunday 15th September



- 8.00 am **Holy Communion - St James and St Francis**
- 10.00 am **Family Eucharist - St James**
- 10.30 am **Family Eucharist - St Francis**
- 4.00 pm **Parish Harvest Tea - St Francis Church**
- 5.30 pm **Parish Harvest Evensong - St Francis Church**

Please speak to Gwen or Stephen if you need a lift to St Francis

Tinned tomatoes and vegetables, Tea & Coffee, hot chocolate/cocoa, sauces, herbs, spices, dried pasta, rice, sago, tapioca & pudding rice, sugar, dried fruit, evaporated milk, cooking oils, coconut milk, fruit juice/squash, and tinned meat will be collected for the *Steppin' Stone Project* (formerly The Porch) to feed the city's homeless.

Healing Service

Wednesday 18th
September 7.30 p.m.
St James Church

Receive Jesus'
promise of healing
through personal prayer



Sunday 6th October

ST FRANCIS PATRONAL FESTIVAL

8.00 am **Holy Communion**
10.30 am **Patronal Eucharist**

followed by Bring and Share Buffet
Lunch



Sundays at Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock

- October 6th *Reflections on the Word*
- November 3rd *Evening Praise with Bruce Gillingham*
- December 1st *The Advent Hope - waiting in hope*
- January 5th *Celebrating Epiphany*



Gap Year in Africa

As you may already know, I am taking a year out between school and university to go to Africa with the *Right Hand Trust*. The purpose of this page is to answer the most frequently asked questions about the trip.

What is the Right Hand Trust?

The RHT is a Christian organisation that works with the Anglican Church in a number of African countries including Gambia, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho. Every year it sends out between 20 and 40 volunteers to live and serve alongside Christian communities in rural African villages.



Which country are you going to?

I am going to Kenya, to the Mt. Kenya West region.

What exactly will you be doing?

What we do out there depends on the placement and also on our own willingness to get involved. As 'white Christians' we will be expected to preach in church services and help with the Sunday school but most 'missioners' (as we are called) find themselves teaching in schools, leading youth groups, going on visitations with the local vicar and promoting AIDS awareness as well

When are you going?

Our flights have already been booked – January 4th, 9:00 pm, Heathrow! (There will be a commissioning service in London for all the missioners and their friends/family/ congregation a few hours prior to take-off!)

How long are you going for?

The missioners are in their placements for 8 months so I come home at the end of August. We are encouraged to take a

fortnight's break, however, straight after Easter to explore the country we are in and to give us a chance to recharge our batteries.

Are you out there alone?

No. The missioners are sent in pairs to their village. The people in charge of the RHT discuss (and pray!) about who will get on well with who since we will be living with the same person for 8 months! There is always an older 'white' mission worker in the region with whom we are encouraged to keep in contact, especially if there are any problems, and either the chairman of the RHT or one of his colleagues at some point also visits us during our stay.

How much will it cost you?

The total to be raised stands at around £3,500. I am working at *Mothercare World* to try and raise as much money as possible through that. I have written to a number of trusts asking for grants (without too much success so far!) and for the rest of the money

I am depending entirely on donations.



I hope this has answered some of your questions about what I am doing. There will be an '**African Evening**' on **2nd October** in the **Church Centre** when I will be talking more about the culture in which I will be living, answering any more questions you have and cooking a genuine African meal for everyone, so keep a look out for more information about that...

Lizzie Hartley



Rosanne interviews Shirley Costar

I wonder if you know anyone who, each time you meet them, seems to get younger? Well, I do and one of those people is Shirley Costar. You want to ask her for the recipe but she's so full of life and fun that you know the answer before you start! As she chats about husband, Paul, and her two fast growing-up sons you soon realise that she is no fluffy headed school girl – far from it.

She is a regular worshipper at St Francis' and an invaluable partner in the organisation of S.L.O.G., the highly successful club for young people. It was her close friend Mimi Blagrove who suggested that she might like to join her at family worship at St. Francis'. They were young mums with small boys at playgroup at the time. The moment she entered the door she felt welcome (and how many people who have been interviewed for the *Chronicle* have said that? An awful lot!). But I seem to have begun rather a long way from the beginning, don't I? Shirley's parents met and married whilst her father was stationed at Bicester in the R.A.F. On leaving the service dad joined the Oxford Fire Service and the couple moved to Wood Farm. After the birth of an older sister, Shirley and her twin brother

were born. It's safe to describe her as a truly local girl, educated at Wood Farm infant and junior schools, Harlow School in Marston and then on to Peers. She was caught up in the two-to-three tier system in Oxford's educational reorganisation as many of our present day youngsters are now caught in the reverse process. Sport and drama were her first loves at school, sloshing across a muddy hockey field or giving her all on a netball court. Several leading roles in school plays led her into our parish drama group. Many readers will remember her in past pantomimes but draped over a piano singing 'Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered' in one of our reviews is my favourite 'Shirley' moment.

After school she took a job as receptionist at the Park Hospital and moved on to various office posts until her children were born. But Paul hasn't appeared in the picture yet. When she was thirteen she was invited to a wedding reception where her best friend was bridesmaid. In walked best friend's cousin, Paul. According to Shirley he had the most incredible eyes and that, as they say, was that. There was no other boyfriend for her and five years later they were married. Danny, their first

son, was born, followed by Tommy, son number two and she became a full-time mum. Now that the boys are independent young men she works at the Squirrel Nursery School in North Oxford. She is a classroom assistant, full of admiration for the class teacher she helps and brimming over with love for the three-year-olds with whom she is involved. Her church life began when her mum used to take her, with her brother and sister to Sunday school and evensong at Headington Quarry Methodist Church. She enjoyed Sunday school but to this day finds evensong dull! As a teenager her churchgoing, though not her faith, lapsed and then came that happy day when Mimi brought her into St. Francis.

Was there one particular person who had a strong influence on your early life?

My Mum – to this day she is the most fantastic listener – she never judged me, only ever gave me love and kindness.

Can you remember an incident in your early life which holds special significance for you?

Turning up at that wedding reception and meeting my future husband.

What sort of child were you?

Never lonely, I'd always got Graham, my twin. I was an ordinary little girl with a happy stable life.

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

It has been with me as long as I can remember.

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

At home with the boys especially when they were toddlers and at that time making a lifetime friendship with Mimi when we met at playgroup.

Are there any aspects of modern life you dislike?

Aggression both worldwide and locally. There's so much anger out there.

What's best about life today?

I know so many fantastic young people – they are our hope for the future.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I like the theatre, my music mainly light jazz and songs from the musicals. I enjoy doing my sewing, I make clothes, curtains and things. I must say, though, one of my favourite things, after a busy week, is to open a bottle of wine, hire a good video and enjoy an evening with Paul.

What makes you laugh?

So many things, I love to laugh, have a good old giggle.

If you had a Holy Wand what would you change?

I'd stop children suffering in any way.

If you were not doing

what you do now what would be the alternative?

I really like what I do now – I'm quite content.

What do you hope to be doing ten years' hence?

To be a granny, I hope. I'd like to still be working I hope the boys will be in settled relationships. Maybe Paul and I will have plans for some good holidays – Australia perhaps.



The Celtic Way



Thirty five people from St Francis and St James churches set off to travel through the beautiful Cotswold countryside to visit the Warwickshire village of Offchurch. We arrived at Offa House to spend the parish weekend together. After a delightful evening meal we all assembled in a large room and were introduced to our weekend theme - Celtic faith.

The next morning we woke up to a beautiful fine day, so before breakfast some of us were able to take a walk around the gardens and to admire the lovely views of the countryside.

The first session of Celtic spirituality was most impressive and of great interest. We learnt Celtic chants, hymns and prayers, some of which we would use in our Sunday service. Over the weekend we continued to hear more about our Christian heritage.

In the afternoon after a fine lunch, some of us went on a country walk along the canal and through a field of seed rape and back to Offa House for tea. Others had a quiet time to themselves or ventured further

afield to Leamington Spa or a National Trust house. In the evening a social evening was arranged for everyone, which was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday morning after breakfast we had a Celtic Eucharist. This service was, I think, the highlight of the weekend. During the service some of the Celtic hymns and chants we had learnt were sung. The Eucharist was celebrated in a most impressive manner, the whole congregation sitting in a circle, standing at the appropriate moment, with the Bread and Wine passed round the to each person in the circle.

This weekend was unsurpassed, with a truly wonderful feeling of happiness and friendship, shared by all who were present.

Our very grateful thanks to all who arranged this wonderful weekend, with special thanks to Father Stephen, Father John and Sister Margaret Anne and to all the staff at Offa House.

Roll on next year

Michael Blackler

Next year's Parish Weekend is on 20th-22nd June.

Booking commences in the New Year.

Morning Prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church

Saturday Mornings at 9.15 am

all welcome



CARPETS WITH A CLEAR

CONSCIENCE



Thousands of children are employed illegally in the carpet-making regions of India, Pakistan and Nepal, but you can support ethical carpet makers by buying

rugs in Britain that bear the Rugmark. This Unicef-backed international trademark certifies rugs that can be traced back to looms registered child-labour free by inspectors who make unannounced visits. A percentage of the cost of each rug helps pay for inspections and education for rescued children. British stockists of these carpets include B & Q, Co-op and Allied Carpets. For more information, visit

www.rugmark.org

TIME FOR ANOTHER EQUINOX



23 September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern

hemisphere).

The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the sun is 'edgewise' to the earth's axis of rotation so that (neglecting the effect of atmospheric refraction) everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness. The solstices and equinoxes are not equally spaced in the year, because the earth's orbit around the sun is elliptical, not circular.

Alpha at St Francis this Autumn on Monday evenings

Explore the meaning of life and meet people!

Starting **Monday 7th October**

7.00 to 9.30pm at St Francis Church Centre

Meal included

Contact Fr John on 748915

if you or your friends would like to come.

Invitations and explanatory booklet available soon.

***Alpha* needs You! Help Required**

Can you help by joining a team to deliver

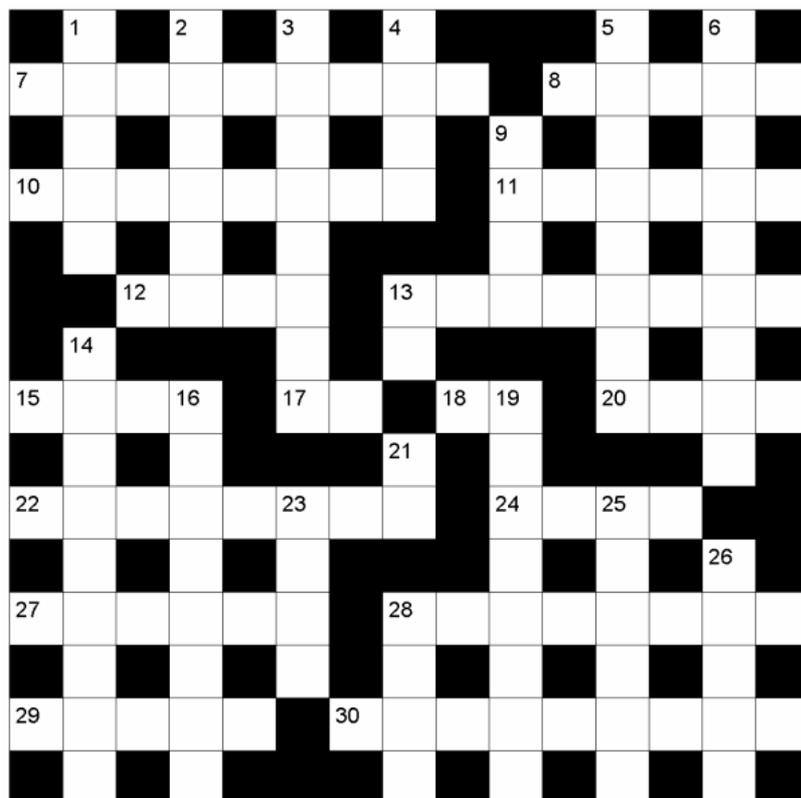
Alpha Invitations through letter boxes,

In the week commencing Monday 16th September.

Thanks!



September's Crossword



July's Solution

- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1 Proverbs | 2 Rhode Island |
| 6 jean | 3 variant |
| 9 kea | 4 ripe |
| 11 Apocrypha | 5 skate |
| 12 Caleb | 6 Jacob |
| 13 two | 7 awl |
| 14 Sheba | 8 Tarshish |
| 15 Babel | 10 Abel |
| 17 Noah | 16 bacchanalia |
| 21 inset | 18 am |
| 22 mead | 19 hetz |
| 23 scab | 20 ode |
| 26 Haag | 24 Benjamin |
| 27 Ruth | 25 Cru |
| 29 ashen | 28 hi |
| 30 zinc | 29 accrete |
| 31 Sodom | 31 Saul |
| 34 Canea | 32 Moses |
| 35 obi | 33 sized |
| 37 units | 36 solo |
| 39 Zhouenlai | 38 ism |
| 40 Eve | |
| 41 Amos | |
| 42 duodenal | |

ACROSS

- 7 Scriptural certainty (9)
- 8 Merry (5)
- 10 A system of belief (8)
- 11 A body point in yoga (6)
- 12 Officiating priest of a mosque (4)
- 13 A follower of Christ (8)
- 15 A false object of worship (4)
- 17 Negative vote (2)
- 18 Otherwise (2)
- 20 Weighty holy communion (4)
- 22 Dawn (8)
- 24 Canaanite or Phoenician local deity (4)

- 27 House of christian prayer (6)
- 28 Invent again (8)
- 29 Vented anger (5)
- 30 Specify (9)

DOWN

- 1 Heavenly messenger (5)
- 2 Threefold faith or belief (6)
- 3 Charm (8)
- 4 Religious image (4)
- 5 A form of trinitarian belief (8)
- 6 Manifold beliefs (9)
- 9 Here Luke records the early church (4)
- 13 Perform (2)

- 14 Neither commanded nor forbidden (Gk) (9)
- 16 Member of political party (US sp) (8)
- 19 Pertaining to rabbis (8)
- 21 Satisfactory (2)
- 23 Reflected sound (4)
- 25 Pre Christmas season (6)
- 26 Join (5)
- 28 Waterside grass (4)

Saint Deiniol (*died c.584*)

The new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, is not the first mighty bishop to come out of Wales. Deiniol was a monk of Wales who came to be the 'first bishop of Bangor'. And a mighty bishop he was, too: Deiniol founded the two monasteries of Bangor Fawr (on the Menai Straits) and Bangor Iscoed (Clwyd), which, according to Bede, became the most famous

monastery of British Christianity and came to number over 2,000 monks. Sadly, they were defeated at the battle of Chester by the pagan Aethelfrith, king of Northumbria. Deiniol is also remembered for his skill in getting disagreeing bishops to come and talk things over at a Synod... surely a skill in which his 21st century successor will also excel!

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) Family Service (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
11.15 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
6.00 pm	Evening Service <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, Fr John and Mark have Monday. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and two out of three Sundays

Parish Directory

TEAM RECTOR:

The Revd Stephen Hartley,
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Tel: 747680
Email: stephen.hartley
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The Revd Sr Margaret Anne
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Eric Uren
Tel: 770696

CHURCHWARDENS:

Gwen Ranklin
Tel: 451417
Norah Shallow
Tel: 765199

DEPUTY WARDENS:

Rosanne Butler
Tel: 453257
Pat Chung
Tel: 767124

HALL BOOKINGS

OFFICER:
773620

weekdays only