

In Times of Change

As we pack up our lives for the move to Australia, we are learning again three things about change. None of them is very surprising. But each is profoundly important. First, we are learning that change can be hard. We feel a bit fragile right now as we say goodbye to friends and places that we love. It is odd to sort through memories as we send some of our belongings to Australia, some to the charity shops and some to the skip. Second, we are learning that change is exciting if we can keep the purpose of the change in sight. There is a wonderful poem by the Australian poet David Campbell in which he contemplates the changes that a newborn child will bring. He describes his fears about impending parenthood in some detail, but concludes with the line: "and then with joy, I looked beyond and saw the view". That is a wise way to deal with change, and we are trying to focus on the excitement of the opportunities that we will find in Australia. We are trying to look beyond and see the view. Third, it is clear that the one constant in this time of change is the faithfulness of God. The importance of our relationships with one another and with Him is the only thing that we should regard as non-negotiable in a

time in which everything else seems up for grabs. He is faithful and will see us through a time of uncertainty.

Exciting change is happening at St James' and St Francis'. There is a new minister at St James' and a new one to come at St Francis'. The churches have many new members. There is a renewed emphasis on reaching out to people with whom the church does not currently have much contact, and a new service for families in the St James' Church Centre. Through all these changes, the rock on which the life of the churches must be built is the strong love that their people share, and the constant faithfulness and goodness of God. These are the things that make, and will continue to make, St James' and St Francis' places in which people find hope and comfort and faith. These are the things that will bring the light and salvation of Christ to people who so need to find it. We will be praying for you all as you grow in faith together, as you reach out to the people of Cowley, and as you increase in love and grace. We would be really grateful if you could also pray for us as we face the changes that the next few months will bring.

Beth and Michael

Chronicle

Sydney Frank 'Jim' Dyball

1915-2008

When we first joined St. Francis Church, Jim and his wife Vera were very much leading lights in the church.

They had been with it more or less since its foundation, and between them had a complete picture of its progress.

They had served on the church committee for many years, and also on the PCC, and had worked very hard to raise money for it and to keep it ticking over the way it should.

Vera had been very active on a number of diocesan committees and seemed to know many of the key people who ran things. She helped with the women's groups and was a great flower arranger and organiser of flower festivals.

Jim was a much quieter person than Vera and to a certain extent was overshadowed by her personality. Though there was quite a difference in their ages – she was older – they got on very well together.

However, Jim was very much his own person and had clear opinions about things. He had a certain dignity about him, and on the face of it seemed quite solemn, but in reality he had quite a sense of humour. I can still see the slow smile break out on his face when something appealed to his humorous side.

From the church's point of view his great strength lay in his work at the altar as a server, which he did for many years. He

took his job very seriously and was proud of the fact that he had been properly trained by the National Guild of Servers.

He knew exactly what should be done in the service of communion at any given time, and was very steady and sure of himself. Many a young curate, nervous in his early days had good reason to be grateful to Jim to set him right at key points in the service. He was always smartly dressed and turned up in good time – in spite of the fact that he walked all the way.

He also made sure that his successor, George, were thoroughly well trained too, and a good job he made of it. I don't remember too much about Jim's working life, he didn't talk of it very often – but I believe he worked at the Morris Works for some time.

My lasting impression of Jim is of someone who was very solid and dependable. He kept his promises and made his appointments on time. And he was a good friend to those who knew him well.

We were sorry that his later years were plagued by ill health. St Francis was the poorer without him, and his dedication and commitment over so many years, has been an example to us all.

May he rest in peace.

John Shreeve

ROSANNE INTERVIEWS Gerald Ives

Writing the story of Gerald's early life is a bit like thumbing through the pages of an old Bradshaw railway timetable! It puts me in mind of the song 'I've been everywhere, man' that we used to sing in the '60s. Ah, but am I being a little unfair? Perhaps, because it was his parents who did the moving, taking their young son with them.

His father was in the furniture retail business when Gerald was born. He had married his secretary and set up his own furniture store in Liverpool. At that time Liverpool was an impoverished area so many people could not afford smart, new furniture. Hence the business began to fail. Mr Ives sold up, moved with his wife and baby son to Birkenhead and bought a sweet shop. Gerald's mother was his second wife. He had a son by his first wife so Gerald has a half brother, Reg, who is thirteen years his senior. Reg left home quite early on to join the Navy and Gerald was brought up virtually as an only child. He enjoyed the privilege of a private educa-

tion until he was seven. The sweet shop only lasted a short while because Mr Ives hankered after his own pub so the next move was to Herefordshire. He kept 'The Black Swan' in Leominster, Gerald has very happy memories of his time there. He recalls some of the wonderful characters who came into the bar, including one old fellow, George, who loved his Herefordshire cider. He would take his tankard down to the pig-sty at the back of the pub and talk to the family pig. This pig was, I gather, a pet much loved by Gerald who also would spend hours chatting to old George about country ways.

After about three years, the family moved to a big pub, 'The Birch', in Ashton-under-Lyme which had a crown green bowling green at the back. By the time Gerald was a teenager they had made another move to a smaller pub in Hyde on the outskirts of Manchester. There was a short 'blip' in his parents' marriage and he and his mother went back to her



home in Sutton Coldfield. Once reunited, his parents took him to a new home in Leamington Spa, and at long last, he settled into an exceptional school, Oken School, in Warwick where he made some good friends and joined the church choir. He also remembers some inspirational teachers at Oken School. (I hope by now you see what I mean about Bradshaw's timetables!)

On leaving school Gerald continued to live at home and found his first job at Halford's in Leamington. Soon after his parents moved to the Cotswolds where they

found employment in a large house in Chipping Camden. Gerald trained as a motor mechanic in Shipston-on-Stour. The next move was to Witney where, still in his teens, he got a job in one of the last remaining blanket factories. And from there his peripatetic family finally reached Oxford and settled down. Mr and Mrs Ives worked at St Hugh's College, she as a housekeeper and he in the porter's lodge. Their son, now about twenty, found a job in Perrin's furniture store in George Street.

Once his dad had retired they set up home in Blackbird Leys and Gerald then decided to join the R.A.F. His father had always hoped his son would join the police so he was delighted when his son was taken into the air-force police. Gerald became a 'snowdrop' a nickname which stems from the distinctive white cap they wear. He wanted to see something of the wider world so after "Square Bashing" up in Nottinghamshire and passing his driving test at his next posting - Abingdon plus a couple of bases in Essex - he qualified as a fully trained air force policeman. He was very pleased when he learnt that

his next posting was to be Laarbruch in Germany. It was during the height of the Cold War and he and his colleagues were required to be fully armed whilst in uniform, at all times. He also served in Bruggen spending two and a half years abroad before returning to the UK where he intended to continue his career in the R.A.F. Sadly however his father died and so, after five years in uniform, he decided to return home to look after his elderly mother.

They found a home in Town Furze in Oxford and Gerald worked in security with British Leyland, later Unipart. After his mum had died he was offered a flat at the top of Hockmore Tower in Templers' Square. Our "been everywhere" man had finally come home to roost in his convenient eyrie with a fantastic view across to Shotover.

A few years ago "something urged him" to attend morning service at St. James' Church and after a low-key start he is now a regular worshipper citing the warm and friendly congregation as a very good reason to stay.

How would you describe yourself as a child?

Pretty shy, introverted as a little boy. As I got older I came out of my shell. Some of the boys I mixed with were pretty tough and I learnt how to stand up for myself.

Have you any special childhood memories you'd like to share?

There was a time at The Buxton Inn in Hyde when mum and dad's marriage drifted. Mum left with me in a taxi and then decided to go back. Tommy, the taxi driver, began to be nasty. I told him to leave mum alone and he smacked me in the jaw. When we got back dad was waiting to whack him with a chair so I told him to pull into the car park. Dad ran out and said "I've got my wife and son back" and they never split up again. I'm pretty proud of that as it saved their marriage.

Has God been part of your life since you were a child?

I think so, yes. Mother taught me a certain amount about God and dad some too. I was bought a Bible and a prayer book. Once I'd joined the choir when we

were living in Leamington Spa it was two services every Sunday. I was confirmed while I was there.

If you could make a change in the world what would it be?

Obviously I'd like peace in the world. The other thing I think that couples should try to stick together more. Too many people go into relationships before they give it proper thought.

Is there anything in our modern world which you find positive?

The increasing possibility of travelling, the chance to go to a good concert and going out somewhere for a good meal.

Do you have a treasured possession?

I've got an acoustic guitar and I like to strum about on it, plus my snooker cue, plus a few mementoes of my mother and father.

Do you have a hero or heroine past or present?

One of my officers at Bruggen (next in seniority to the station commander). He was Flight Lieutenant Scoular and he acted as defence counsel for a friend of mine. He was a man who did his best for his men.

Do you have any pastimes we have not mentioned?

I play pool; and snooker

which I like better. I also do a lot of competitions. I've already won 2x£25 cheques and an iPod but no big prizes yet.

Are there any places in the world you'd like to visit?

Yes, I'd like to visit Cyprus – they tell me it's very interesting. If I could afford it I'd travel to New Zealand and Australia. Oh yes, and Canada and America!

Do you have any ambitions for the future?

I would like to see what's happening in Liverpool, see some of those old haunts I used to know. Especially as it is European City of Culture this year.

Ridiculous Riddles

1. A man was driving a black car with his headlights off. There was no moon. A lady was crossing the street. How did the driver see her?
2. What asks no question but demands an answer?
3. What did one wall say to the other?
4. What word if pronounced right is wrong but if pronounced wrong is

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CHRISTIANS TOGETHER ON CLIMATE CHANGE

This event to help Christians in the Thames valley make a difference on climate issues was held at Greyfriars Church, Reading on 16 February

Report by Lesley Williams



This was a well planned, thought provoking day with some inspiring speakers, a collaboration between the Oxford diocese & local Methodist circuits and several Christian organisations.

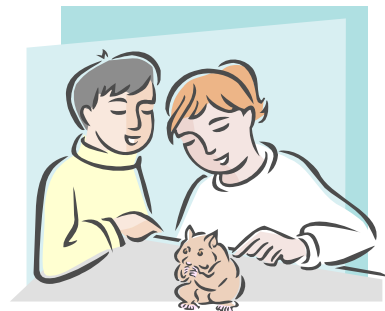
After opening worship, there were two panel sessions: “what in the world is happening?” and “how can the church respond?” which included the Bishop of Oxford; and then the chance to attend two of many workshops. I learned about “making climate change accessible to children” from a Christian Aid worker and “going green – churches’ eco-congregation experiences” A local Reading MP (more were invited) came to take questions about the climate change bill going through parliament. The day closed with worship & an act of commitment to go away and do something on a personal & church level.

There is so much I would like to share with our congregations in order to understand & address the fact that climate change is a core question for the Church; we are all stewards of God’s creation. It’s a theological as well as a political problem.

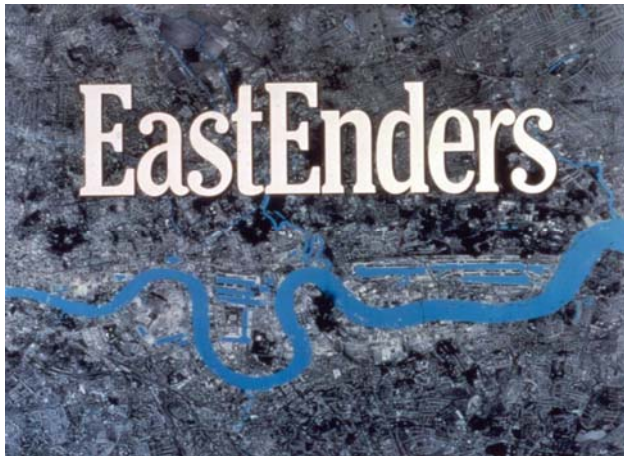
I picked up lots of information from the resources exhibition and will discuss the issue first with the PCC but would welcome contact from anyone who might be interested in establishing a Parish Green Team to move us forward.

01865 779 562 lesley.williams@oxfordshire.gov.uk

It was a sad day when the children’s pet hamster died. Eight-year-old Hannah decided that a formal funeral was called for, so she obtained a small box, and a little hole was dug at the bottom of the garden. Eventually Hannah with her five-year-old brother by her side stood there with hands clasped and eyes closed, giving thanks for all the joy their late pet had brought them. They ended with a fervent ‘Amen’. Then five-year-old Thomas added, ‘Oh Jesus, do be careful and put your gloves on before you pick her up – because she bites’.



Gwen Fancutt



Surviving 'Eastenders' (with gratitude to an article from 'In Tune', the Oxford Male Voice Choir's Autumn journal)

Here's a little help with the translation of the dialogue:

Owma chizzit	A request to find the cost of an item
Amant	Quantity ('Thez a yuge amant of mud in Saffend')
Assband	Unable to leave the house through illness or disability
Awss	A four-legged animal on which money can be won or lost
Branna	More brown ('Ere, Shaz, ya look branna today, 'ave ya been on a sun-bed?')
Corta panda	A rather large hamburger
Dan in the maff	Unhappy ('Wassa matta, Shaz, ya look a bit dan in the maff')
Eye-eels	Womens' shoes
Garrij	A building where a car is kept or repaired ('Oi Darren, I fink the mo-toh need to go into the garrij. It ain't workin' propah')
Ibeefa	A holiday island
Lfarjrik	Lacking in energy ('I feel all lafarjrik')
Piepa	The Sun, The Mirror or Sunday Sport
Reband	A period of recovery or turmoil after rejection by a lover ('I couldn't 'elp it, I was on the reband from Craig')
Tan	The city of London
Webbats	Query about a location of someone or something ('Webbats is me dole card, Shaz? I gotta sign on')



Christian Aid Week : May 11-17

Spring Canticles

For, lo, the winter is past
The rain is over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth,
The time of the singing of birds is come.
And the voice of the turtle-dove is
heard in the land.
Arise and come away.

Song of Solomon, II: 11-12

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) All Age Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist – 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>
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Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Group – <i>St Francis</i>
	2.30 pm	Parish Mothers' Union – <i>St James (3rd Mon)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Seashells – <i>Church Centre— No Seashells until 22nd April</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St James</i>
	12.30 pm	Tuesday Lunch Club – <i>St James</i>
	2.30 pm	Friends of <i>St Francis</i> – <i>St Francis (2nd & 4th)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	2.30 pm	Tea Break – <i>St Francis (1st Wed)</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>

Parish Directory

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Answers to riddles:

- 1) it was daytime
- 2) the telephone
- 3) "I'll meet you at the corner"
- 4) wrong