

Hope in Dark Times

During the last week or so I have been enjoying walking through St James' churchyard and admiring the emerging aconites, as once again they begin to form a delicate yellow carpet of colour. I remember well admiring their beauty when I saw them first last spring. The snowdrops too are beginning to appear and on the 8th and 9th of this month we shall have a "Snowdrop Weekend" when we are encouraging people to visit both the churchyard and the church. Despite the recent cold (and maybe more to come!) the unmistakeable signs of spring are here, bringing with them a sense of hope.

At the beginning of this month of February we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple – or Candlemas, as it is more popularly known. Candlemas is the official end of Christmastide, the next day we are in "ordinary time". Yet we live in "extraordinary" times. We are technically capable of blowing our world to pieces and we currently live daily with the threat of war, even that horrifying prospect, world war.

The words of Jesus are more

relevant than ever: - "You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet". Jesus' words call us to live in hope – hope of the coming of God's Kingdom among us in our daily lives and not just in some impossible future. Hope in signs of new life, and love, and courage, no matter how tough the going gets.



At the end of this month on 27th February – Rowan Williams will be ceremonially enthroned as our new Archbishop of Canterbury. Many have set their hopes on him as a

potentially great spiritual leader. Great and gifted leadership is certainly needed in these challenging times.

But ultimately the One who leads us all is the One in whom we can put our unfailing trust – the God of love who loves all without exception, whether terrorist or saint. Our hope in this God of Love alone can help us face the future with a carefree heart.

Sr. Margaret Anne

Chronicle

New Church Centre and Rectory to be Built After Easter



Building work on the new Church Centre and Rectory in Beauchamp Lane will begin after Easter.

The first phase will be the renovation and extension of Benson Cottage into the new Rectory. The old kitchen is being demolished and an extension to the rear will provide a new kitchen, dining room, and two further bedrooms.

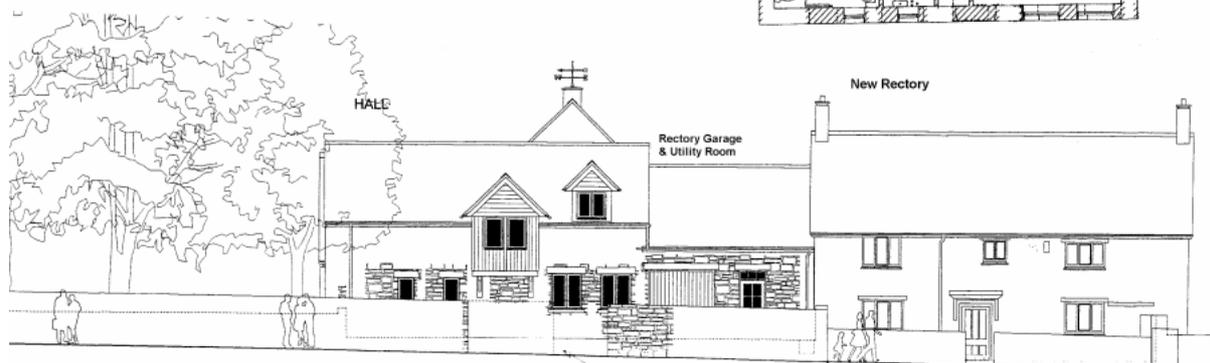
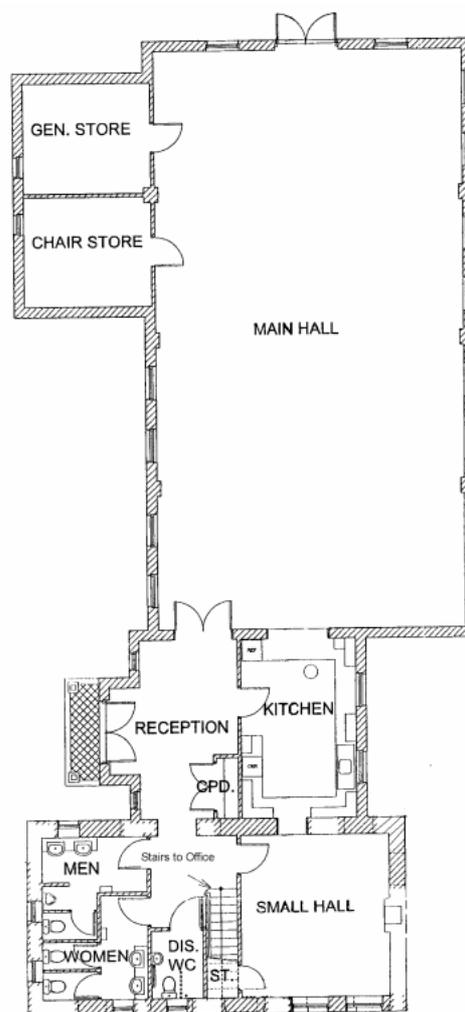
Benson Cottage is a listed building and the new work is in keeping with the existing cottage.

The conversion of the existing "stable block" into a small meeting room with toilets and offices above will take place at the same time as the work on the Rectory.

Once the new Rectory is completed, the existing 1960's Rectory will be demolished, thus enabling work to commence on building of the rest of the Church Centre to the rear of the "old stables".

The final phase of the work, probably next year, will be the building of a purpose-built curate's house and flats on The Hut site.

The existing Parish Hall is in the process of being sold, almost certainly, to another church in the city. Because of a restrictive covenant on the land, all the proceeds from the sale of the Parish Halls will have to be used to build and maintain the new Church Centre in Beauchamp Lane.



LENT AT ST JAMES

ASH WEDNESDAY - 5TH MARCH

9.30am Holy Eucharist

7.00pm Sung Eucharist

both services include the Imposition of Ashes

TUESDAY LENT EUCHARIST & LUNCH



Tuesdays at 12 o'clock beginning on March 11th. The Eucharist is followed by a simple lunch of soup, bread & cheese, fruit, tea or coffee in the Church Centre. Proceeds will go to USPG - serving overseas missions.

LENT GROUPS



We are living in world beset by many uncertainties and fears. This year's Lent Course "New World, Old Faith" focuses on five important themes with the help of contemporary leading figures in the English Church including, **The Archbishop of Canterbury, David Coffey, Joel Edwards, Dr John Polkinghorne and Dr Pauline Webb.**

- 1 BRAVE NEW WORLD?
- 2 ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS
- 3 CHURCH AND FAMILY IN CRISIS
- 4 PRAYER, MEDITATION AND SCRIPTURE
- 5 FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

This year there will be **FIVE STUDY GROUPS** each meeting for the five sessions:

- ◆ Monday Morning at 10.15 am at Una Dean's, 66 Fern Hill Road
- ◆ Tuesday Morning at 10.15 am at The Rectory with Sr Margaret Anne
- ◆ Tuesday Evening at 7.30 pm at Martin and Barbara Cox, 52 Oliver Road
- ◆ Wednesday Afternoon at 2.00 pm at Eric & Connie Uren's, 13 Clive Rd
- ◆ Wednesday Evening at 7.00 pm at Brian & Barbara Brown's, 58 Lytton Rd

Most groups begin in the week beginning 10th March

Parish Weekend

Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd June

Offa House, nr Leamington Spa



SEASONS OF THE SPIRIT

in the Rhythm of Life

Further details later this month

Healing Service

Wednesday 19th February

7.30 p.m.

St James Church

Receive Jesus'
promise of healing
through personal prayer





Rosanne interviews James Lord

Whilst I look forward month by month to interviewing each of my subjects on your behalf I must say it's a privilege to meet the young people in our parish. As they stand at the crossroads between childhood and adulthood it is interesting to see the world through their eyes. Each has real insight into what they perceive around them. James is no exception. We met one afternoon when snow featured in the weather forecast and, as you will see, this had some input into the conversation.

One of the biggest issues to concern 16-year-old James is the change in Oxford's education system which has caused the closure of his school. He is in the lower sixth at St Augustine's School and is due to leave as the school closes. One would think the effect of this would be minimal. Not so. He remarked on the unsettling and uncomfortable impact the uncertainty has made both staff and pupils. I mentioned how, on my visits to school, I had been struck by the calm and cheerful atmosphere but he believes that I would notice a difference now. Sad.

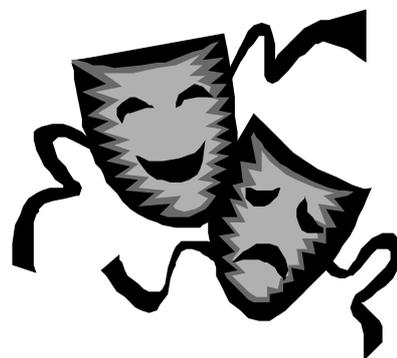
He is studying four subjects at A/S and A level each for a very different reason; English Literature because he enjoys the challenge of a purely academic subject and the need

to read at depth, German because he enjoys languages and thought a "new one" would be a good idea, Business Studies because he thought it would be useful and Chemistry because he loves the practical side of the subject especially making bangs and smells! He is self-deprecating about his sporting achievements. He finds sport fun, wishes he could shine at something and can't. He keeps fit by walking. Each year he joins the St. Francis' pilgrimage led by Fr. John and Clare. He walks to and from school every day and gave up riding his bike ever since he fell off several years ago. He has several provisos about the paths he walks – no stinging nettles and definitely no bees or wasps. Walks on cold winter days are his favourites. Whilst we're on the subject of favourite things I think it's time to highlight his number one passion, namely drama. As a very small boy at St. Francis' School he was given a part in an adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's story 'The Butterfly that Stamped'. It opened up a whole new world for him which he thinks will be his lifetimes' hobby. He is realistic enough to see that it takes more than flair and an attraction to the stage to build a career but he is heavily involved in the excellent productions put on by Musical Youth of Oxford. At his middle school, Temple

Cowley, he performed in some exciting shows including 'Bugsy Malone', 'Oliver' and 'Wind in the Willows' in which he played Badger. He is currently rehearsing with Musical Youth in their forthcoming production 'Me and My Girl' to be staged at the Playhouse at the end of April.

He has plans to apply for university. He has Edinburgh in mind. When I asked him "Why Edinburgh?" he replied that it might snow up there and he might get to make a snowman, something he has never done in all his sixteen years!

Home life in Temple Road with Mum and Dad and his younger brother, William, is good. James attends St. Francis' church with Mum, Lyn, and is on the rota of readers. He says that his natural shyness is under control as a result of his dramatic roles. He is a bit of a perfectionist but finds lack of time scuppers his good



resolutions to be organised. However, he did admit that he can always find a thousand reasons to put off doing something until it becomes pressing. I have certainly found a kindred spirit in this young man.

Was there one particular person who had a strong influence on you as a small child?

This is hard. My Grandma – I asked her all your basic questions like ‘Who is God? What does he do? Why does he let things happen?’ She listened to me. Also my teacher Mrs Van den Else who introduced me to drama beyond your average nativity.

Was there an incident in childhood that you’ll never forget?

Being in ‘The Butterfly that Stamped’.

What sort of child were you?

I was very shy – cried a lot, almost anything would set me off. I’ve never justified violence in the playground. I got my confidence from my friends at school – oh, and acting.

Has your faith always been with you?

I’d say yes. When I doubted and questioned it, it became stronger. I try to think things through rationally and always believed there was Something out there. I think that what happened in the past stays in the past and what is relevant is what happens now.

Which period of your life have you enjoyed most?

To be honest, now. The past is past.

Are there any aspects of modern life you dislike?

Thank goodness you have caught me in one of my optimistic moods. Things to some extent are becoming fairer with regard to world resources and people’s rights.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Reading, listening to music and trying to justify why it should not be turned down. I like rock music (a good electric guitar), a good film or friends round for one of mum’s brilliant “spag-bogs”.

What makes you laugh?

I am a Monty Python fan. Anyone who sets himself up to be knocked down is fair game but I don’t like cruel humour.

If you had a magic wand what would you do?

I’d make it snow – LOTS!

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

I’d like some professional drama training.

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

I shall take life as it comes but if possible go into some form of teaching. And I want to own my own bonsai tree*.

*R.B. (thinks) was he trying to send me up??

Lizzie in Africa

Lizzie left Heathrow on January 4th, arriving in Johannesburg nine hours later. The nineteen students travelled to Grahamstown to spend ten days being introduced to various aspects of African culture.

From there the students began their journeys to different countries. Lizzie and her friend, Alison, eventually arrived in **Naru Maro**, near Mt Kenya on January 20th.

A surprise phone call to Sharon and Stephen at lunchtime revealed the same fizzy Lizzie! Her accommodation is not a mud hut but a small two room house complete with garden.

She is beginning to get know the villagers, including the Vicar, Rahab - a lovely woman.

Alison and Lizzie are soon to begin their work in the village school and clinic.

Lizzie sends her love and says thank you for the two letters which have already arrived from St James.



January's Solution

C	A	L	M	E	B	O	N	Y	V	A	T		
A	B	A	X	N	E	A	W						
M	A	L	A	C	H	I	T	E	A	C	C	R	A
I	U	A	S	O	N	R	U	I					
D	W	E	E	B	T	E	I	N	K	O	R	N	
S	N	R	E	E	L	S	E	L					
H	O	T	H	E	A	D	S	A	D	D	E	N	S
I	A	C	L	O	O								
P	A	U	N	C	H	Y	A	S	O	C	I	A	L
N	A	A	A	R	O	N	M	I					
T	R	I	U	M	P	H	T	E	L	A	N	S	
A	C	B	W	A	D	I	M	I					
M	A	O	R	I	N	E	B	R	I	A	N	T	
E	R	S	S	C	I	T	Y						
S	E	N	T	E	M	P	O	C	A	E	N		

Lent at St Francis

Ash Wednesday

9.30am Holy Eucharist

7.00pm Sung Eucharist

both services include the Imposition of Ashes

A Course for Lent

New World, Old Faith

This year's Lent Course "New World, Old Faith" focuses on five important themes with the help of contemporary leading figures in the English Church including, **The Archbishop of Canterbury**

If you would like to come to a group, please sign up on one of the lists in church, or contact

Fr John.



Services at St Francis during Lent

these will all take place in church -

Sundays - **Stations of the Cross** at 5.30pm, followed by **Quiet Prayer** before the Cross until 6.45pm.

Morning Prayer on Saturdays continues at 9.15am - followed by breakfast.

As we keep the important season of Lent, why not join in one of these times of prayer and devotion? - if you can't come to church, you could always set aside one of these times for prayer at home.

Sundays @ Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock

February 2nd *Reflecting on the Word*

March 2nd *Evening Praise*

April 6th *Looking to the Cross*

May 4th *Taizé Worship with Fr John*



*Remember the poor when you look out on fields you own,
on your plump cows grazing.
Remember the poor when you look into your barn
at the abundance of your harvest.
Remember the poor when the wind howls and the rain falls,
as you sit warm in your dry house...
The poor have no food except what you feed them
no shelter except your house when you welcome them,
no warmth except your glowing fire.*

from Celtic Fire

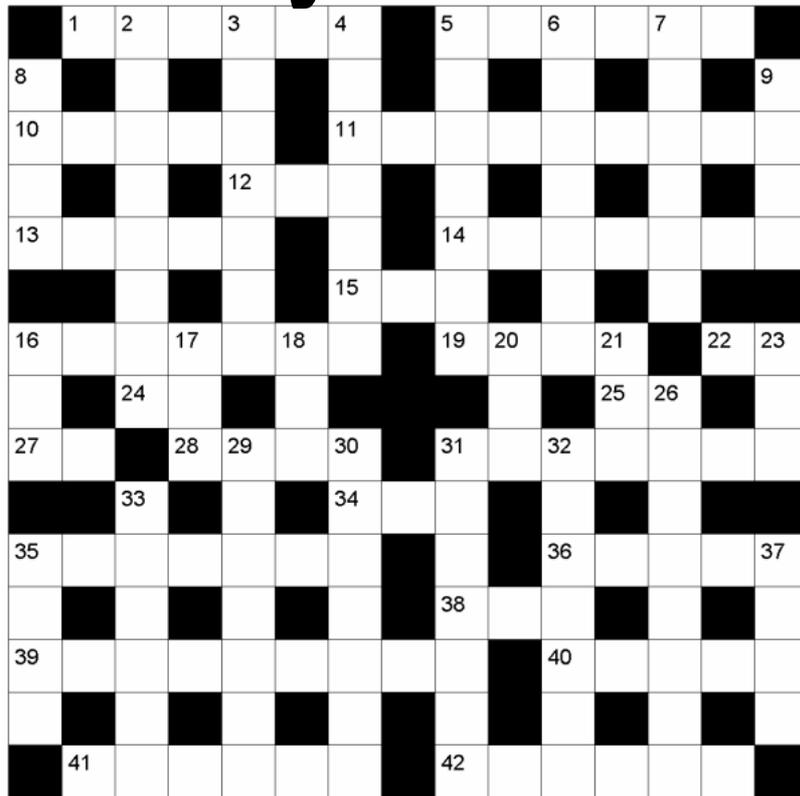
BIG IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT SO IS THE VERY SMALL, SAY CHURCHGOERS

Large churches attract more new members than medium to smaller churches, but churches with very small congregations inspire great loyalty.

So reports Christian Research, who has carried out its Church Attendance Survey for the past ten years in various Anglican and Free churches.

The figures show that between 1989 and 1998, churchgoers who attended the larger churches (those with more than 200 members) increased from 26 per cent of the total number of Sunday worshippers to 40 per cent. But, during the same period, the total of those attending churches whose congregations numbered 100 - 200 dedined by ten per cent. The number of people attending the smallest churches (those with congregations of fewer than 100) remained the same, while many churches with less than 50 people actually grew. Some other findings: the things that draw people to big churches are the relevance of the preaching; the quality of worship; the friendliness of the people, the opportunity to be anonymous if desired; the possibility of 'belonging' to a family; the warmth of the welcome; and the range of children's activities

February's Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 System of aircraft navigation (US) (6)
- 5 Road around an obstruction (6)
- 10 Desert region in S Israel (5)
- 11 Violent upheaval (9)
- 12 Frozen water (3)
- 13 Set apart as sacred (5)
- 14 Radioactive metallic element (7)
- 15 Monetary unit of Romania (3)
- 16 Deerlike (7)
- 19 Blessing (4)
- 22 Hello there (2)
- 24 Negative vote (2)
- 25 Belonging to (2)
- 27 To exist (2)
- 28 Walk in water (4)
- 31 One of the archangels (7)
- 34 Fuss (3)
- 35 Entering (7)
- 36 Headland (5)
- 38 Curved bone (3)
- 39 Five-pointed star (9)
- 40 Tolerate (5)
- 41 Depression between hills (6)
- 42 Swarmed (6)

DOWN

- 2 Of high rank by birth (8)
- 3 Pasta (7)
- 4 Car of a balloon (7)
- 5 Tub to bathe in (7)
- 6 Small flute (7)
- 7 Hinder (6)
- 8 An agitated state (4)
- 9 Officiating priest of a mosque (4)
- 16 Taxicab (3)
- 17 Pledge (3)
- 18 Incline head (3)
- 20 Wood sorrel (US) (3)
- 21 And not (3)
- 23 Unwell (3)
- 26 Statuette (8)
- 29 Lady's maid (7)
- 30 Ardently (7)
- 31 Epicure (7)
- 32 English mathematician (7)
- 33 Republic in E Africa (6)
- 35 Little devils (4)
- 37 Give food to (4)

Baptism and Confirmation Service

with Bishop Richard

St Francis Church

Sunday 16th February 6.00 pm

Please pray for members of our parish

preparing for Confirmation:

St Francis:

Caroline Felicia Louise Lauren

Joe Tom Guy Becky

St James:

Maureen Fitzgibbon

Bring and Share Party afterwards



SNOWDROP WEEKEND

St James' Church

8th and 9th February



We are inviting people to see the wonderful display of snowdrops and aconites in the churchyard. If you've got time - drop in and bring a friend

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Sung Eucharist (*exc 2nd Sunday*)
Family Service (*2nd Sunday*)
11.15 am Sung Eucharist (*2nd Sunday*)
6.00 pm Evening Service
[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 – *St James*

5.00 pm Evening Prayer – *St James*

Tuesday 9.00 am Morning Prayer – *St James*

5.00 pm Evening Prayer – *St Francis*

8.00 pm St Francis Discussion Group – *4 Long Close*

Wednesday 9.00 am Morning Prayer – *St Francis*

9.30 am Eucharist – *St Francis*

10.10 am Mothers and Toddlers – *St Francis* 12.00

pm St James Prayer Group – *13 Clive Road*

5.00 pm Evening Prayer – *St James*

Thursday 9.00 am Morning Prayer – *St James*

9.30 am Eucharist - followed by coffee – *St James*

11.00 am St Francis Prayer Group

5.00 pm Evening Prayer – *St Francis*

7.00 pm Eucharist – *St Francis*

Friday 9.00 am Morning Prayer – *St Francis*

5.00 pm Evening Prayer – *St James*

7.00 pm Friday Club – *alt Fridays at St Francis*

Saturday 9.15 am Morning Prayer & Breakfast – *St Francis*

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,
Cowley Rectory,
Beauchamp Lane
Tel: 747680
Email: stephen.hartley
@btinternet.com

TEAM VICAR:

Fr John Tomlinson,
St Francis' Vicarage,
2 Meyseys Close
Tel: 748915
Email: fj@care4free.net

TEAM CURATES:

The Revd Dr Mark Harris
24 Beauchamp Lane
Tel: 775098
Email: mark.harris@rlac.uk
The Revd Sr Margaret Anne
All Saints Convent
St Mary's Road
Tel: 249127

LICENSED LAY MINISTER:

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