

Fairtrade with St Francis

Early this month is an important time for the congregation of St Francis as they keep their Patronal Festival on Sunday 5th October. There will be a bring and share lunch after morning service, followed by a video. St Francis that great and popular saint had a special devotion to poverty, expressed in his love for the very poor and marginalized people of the society of his day.

Later in the month (October 19th – 26th) is 'One World Week', a time when the Church world-wide focuses on the truth that we are all equally God's children, no matter what our creed, race, gender, age, status or ethnic grouping may be. All are loved by God, who has no favourites. Unfortunately humankind is all too flawed and in so many places throughout the world greed, intolerance, injustice and violence are prevalent.

One of the significant ways in which injustice is perpetrated is through the misuse of World Trade. Churches Together in the Cowley District have organised a Fairtrade meal at Iffley Parish Hall on the evening of Sunday 19th October. People are invited to bring and

share a meal prepared and cooked with Fair Trade ingredients alone. This should be a really enjoyable event, at the same time raising awareness within our local parishes of trade justice issues.

Our Mothers' Union are holding a Fair Trade evening at St Francis Church on Monday 20th October at which Fairtrade goods will be on sale.



Friday October 24th is 'United Nations Day' and there is planned a Fair Trade coffee/tea stall in the Cowley Centre that afternoon.

Later in the month we shall be having Fairtrade goods on sale in both our churches on regular

fortnightly basis.

Do encourage one another to come along to the events and have fun together, at the same time as showing solidarity with the poverty-stricken and oppressed peoples of our world – those very people whom St Francis identified with so clearly and whom God yearns over and loves and longs for with an undying love.

Sr. Margaret Anne

Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

Healing Services:

St Francis Church

Tuesday 7th October 7.00 pm

St James Church

Thursday 23rd October

7.30 pm

The ministry of healing is available at St James' Church every Sunday during the 10 o'clock service. Please go to St Luke's Chapel after you have received Communion where members of the Healing Team will be available to listen and to pray in complete confidence.



St Luke our Patron Saint

To St Luke, a gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the

Gentiles, for whom he wrote. Women figure more

prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good as linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is the how the early Christian moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel.



Sundays @ Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock

October 5th Iona Worship

November 2nd Annual Memorial Service
(4.00 pm)

December 7th Waiting for the Saviour

January 4th Evensong for the Epiphany



Morning Prayer

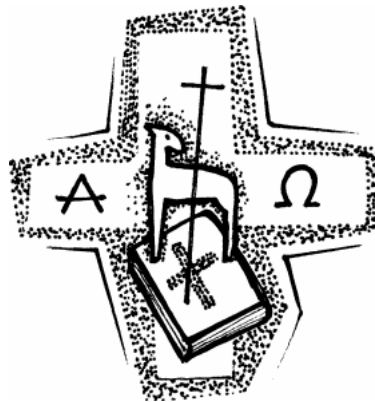
& Breakfast

St Francis Church

Saturday Mornings

9.15 am

all welcome



Power, money, sex and time

Being human demands greater wisdom in handling power, money, sex and time.

People and societies urgently need to develop greater wisdom if they are to understand what it is to be human in the face of today's pressures and modern science. What is now possible or at least thinkable was not possible at the time traditional doctrines were being developed, says the Doctrine Commission in its latest report, 'Being human: a Christian understanding of personhood illustrated with reference to power, money, sex and time'.

The Commission chose to write about power, money, sex and time 'both because nobody can be a human being today without developing a wise way of understanding and coping with these realities, and because of the wider implications which wisdom in those areas might have for other aspects of human being in this new time'.

"Powerful forces converge and conflict in the spheres of power, money, sex and time - the stakes are very high," says the report Being human. "Unless these forces are understood and responded to with insight and good sense then individuals and whole families, communities, nations and regions - ultimately human life itself - are at risk. Lack of wisdom and understanding damages or destroys people, societies, and the natural ecology that sustains life."

On power, the report says: "We want to say that the God who

gives us life, the 'God of power and might', draws us into a surprising and adventurous refashioning of what it might mean for us to exercise God-given powers of body, mind and spirit. We are not left at the mercy of what the concept of power has become in western thought - an ominous, looming and predominantly negative idea."

On money, the Commission wants "to raise alertness to Jesus' teaching that it is impossible to serve God and Mammon, specifically in the context of what money has become in the modern world. When a human invention with many positive features becomes a mostly invisible controlling force in our lives, then it is time for the wise to take notice".

On sex, the report says: "The basic thing to be learnt is that it is created to be 'a whole-person relationship of love and loyalty involving body and self'. We teach a realism about the goodness and joy of sex together with the ways it can go wrong. This is set in the context of God's engagement with the world, and especially the encompassing reality of that engagement: the covenant relationship with God, other people and creation."

Time is the most abstract and difficult topic tackled by the Doctrine Commission, which draws attention to 'the radicality of the project of living in and with time as a good gift of God to us in creation'.

"Far from being a 'spare time'

activity, in a life dominated by clocks," says Being human, "worship opens us out onto the 'time of our lives', creating and nurturing habits of life in attentiveness and joy. There is here, we believe, a wisdom to be absorbed by means of what we call 'the temporal virtues': patience and faithfulness, forgiveness and gratitude, alertness and rest, repentance and hope, and wisdom and improvisation."

In tackling these specific subjects, the Commission also tries to commend an approach to being human which is more widely relevant, particularly in light of scientific advances. "The basic datum which all the traditions of theological anthropology presupposed," says the report, "was that being conceived was a kind of lottery, the results of which one simply had to accept. But it is that 'given' which has been taken away. The question now is, is there any reason why we should not improve on the results of the accidents of conception?"

Being human: a Christian understanding of personhood illustrated with reference to power, money, sex and time is published by Church House Publishing, price £9.95 and is available from all Christian bookshops and Church House Bookshop, 31 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BN, tel. 020-7898 1305, e mail bookshop@c-of-e.org.uk, or on the web at: www.chbookshop.co.uk (mail order available).



My sons in the Gospel

By the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, Nazarene

Theological College, Manchester



Charles Wesley

In the 18th century Evangelical Revival, the names of John Wesley, George Whitefield and Charles

Wesley were prominent. These preachers travelled across the country, preaching mostly out-of-doors and attracted large crowds of listeners.

In the last two centuries, many biographers, historians and theologians have reminded us of the importance of these preachers. In the days of the Revival Whitefield and the Wesley brothers were mostly ignored by England's parish clergy but there were some notable exceptions. Ministers in the Church of England like George Walker in Truro, David Simpson in Macclesfield, John Fletcher in Madeley, William Grimshaw in Haworth, Henry Crook in Leeds and John Berridge in Everton (Notts.), warmly welcomed the 'Methodist' evangelists into their pulpits. Their support for the revival meant that often they were branded 'Methodists' themselves.

In addition, however, to these clerical supporters,

John Wesley had other helpers, some three hundred of them. These were his itinerant preachers, devoted laymen who served as Wesley's lieutenants in circuits all over the British Isles. Many of them were converts of the Wesleys' preaching and John Wesley selected them as full-time itinerants because of their devotion, their passion for evangelism and their willingness to serve under Wesley's directions. He called these good men his



John Wesley

'sons in the gospel' and they served in God's work with great dedication and often at great

sacrifice. Many of them had to leave home for months on end as they were appointed to circuits all over the country and there were no resources for married preachers to take their wives and children with them. They were given a horse and saddlebags and little else. One of the most remarkable of these itinerant preachers was John Nelson, a stonemason from Birstall in Yorkshire. Having gone to London in search of work he was attracted one day to a large gathering of people. Going nearer he discovered that it was a religious

meeting and as he listened to John Wesley, without knowing who he was, he came under deep conviction of sin. Nelson felt that Wesley's whole sermon was directed at him and he recorded, 'This man can tell the secrets of my heart, he hath not left me there, for he hath showed me the remedy, even the blood of Jesus.'

Following his conversion, Nelson felt called of God to begin to witness to his friends about their salvation. He returned to Birstall and many of his neighbours were converted through his ministry. The stonemason had become a Kingdom builder! He invited John Wesley to Yorkshire who was amazed when he saw the effects of Nelson's preaching. 'The whole town wore a new face. Such a change did God work by the artless

testimony of one plain man.' Nelson joined the ranks of Wesley's 'sons in the gospel' and gave the rest of his life to itinerant evangelism. It was



George Whitfield

Nelson who made contact with Digory and Elizabeth Isbell in Trewint, Cornwall and that contact led to their conversion.

He was stationed in Ireland and in every circuit his ministry resulted in conversions. John Nelson was a shining example that the Lord can use lay ministry to His glory as well as that of the ordained clergy.

God is our deliverer!



Bringing spiritual hope and physical care, Mission Aviation Fellowship uses light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive the help they need.

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take refuge.” For Dave and Donna Jacobsson, one year after their dramatic evacuation from Nyankunde, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Psalm 18 has special meaning.

Donna explains, “We have tried not to dwell on the scary memories of what happened last year, but naturally, we have been touched again by different remembrances. We want to give our thanks to God – for He has been our strength. There have been some very difficult days but we can say –

Yes! God was our very real deliverer last year and He has also been our very faithful deliverer through a difficult year of grieving losses, and working through the changes.’

Over the past year, Dave has continued flights into DRC from Uganda. Now, American pilot Lary Strietzel has moved to Uganda to join Dave in this vital ministry. In support of this, a Cessna Caravan has arrived in Uganda to facilitate more ministries, carrying more passengers and freight while still landing on bush airstrips. All over the world, MAF planes are flying vital cargoes to reach the most vulnerable

people in isolated situations. In remote Liethnom, southern Sudan, famine conditions are affecting many women and young children. An extra MAF flight each week is enabling more aid to reach those most vulnerable. With malnourished people it is important that feeding begins slowly with specific

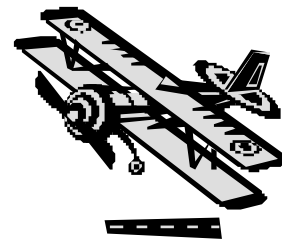
techniques to avoid death from sudden introduction of food.

Pilot Roland Sedlmeier flew the first trip taking World Relief staff and relief food, vitamins, therapeutic milk, laundry soap, Oxfam relief kits and cooking utensils. He spent the day with World Relief staff as they taught local people about

therapeutic feeding.

Rosemary of World Relief said, ‘Roland is always helpful. No other operators would spend time on the ground waiting for us to accomplish our mission before returning to Lokichoggio. Because we were given time on the ground we are confident the situation will get better. We love MAF service, it means so much to us.’

MAF is involved at the heart of reaching vulnerable people, whether they are in spiritual or physical need.



A Sunday School teacher was teaching how God created everything, including human beings. One little boy seemed especially intent when she explained how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and asked him what was the matter. The little boy explained worriedly: “I have a pain in my side. I think I’m going to have a wife.”

Memorial Services
for
the Departed

Sunday 2nd November

St James at 4 o'clock

St Francis at 5 o'clock

During this simple service, we shall sing a few well-loved hymns and pray by name for your loved ones. Lists will be available in both churches to record names to be remembered



Christians do have more 'luck', survey reveals

Christians lead 'luckier' lives and cope better with ill fortune, according to the results of the first experiment to examine the relationship between religious belief and 'luck'. The experiment, carried out by The Luck Factor, The Church of England Newspaper and The Methodist Recorder, found that Christians are more likely to chat to strangers, meditate or enjoy a time of quiet, expect others to be pleasant, and believe that negative events will eventually work out for the best.

In the experiment Christians strongly endorsed the statement 'I sometimes chat to strangers when standing in a supermarket or bank line', a result which suggests that Christians are more 'outgoing than most', explained psychologist Professor Richard Wiseman of The Luck Factor, a study of the scientific reasons behind why some people seem luckier than others.

"This is likely to result in them having more 'lucky' encounters than others," and they connected well with the people around them," he said.

Professor Wiseman also said that the Christians' expectation of others to be 'pleasant, friendly and helpful' become "a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Also, as Christians strongly agreed with the statement that 'negative events will work out well for me in the long run', "This suggests that Christians are more likely than others to be able to cope well with adversity.

In short, the results suggest that a Christian's beliefs and overall lifestyle will have a significant effect on the factors that go into having a 'lucky' life.

The Professor has concluded that religious beliefs can "help people encounter more seemingly 'lucky' life events, and cope with apparent ill-fortune."

Fairtrade Week in Cowley

October 19th - 26th



Sunday 19th October

Churches Together in Cowley invite you to a

Bring and Share Fairtrade Supper

6.00 for 6.30 pm Iffley Parish Hall

You are asked to bring food made mostly from Fairtrade ingredients. Recipes will available.

Monday 20th October

MU Fairtrade Evening

7.30 pm St Francis' Church

Speakers: Miranda St John Nichols & Mike Barlow

Thursday 24th October 3.00 pm onwards

Fairtrade Coffee in the Cowley Centre

Free Fairtrade coffee and tea available

Your Kingdom, Come!

a day for the Saints and with the Saints to encourage and resource our praying led by Bishop Colin

Saturday 1st November 9.45am - 4.00pm

at The Marlborough School, Woodstock



- *Praying with the Bible* *Praying through movement*
- *Praying with Mother Julian* *Praying with the imagination*
- *Praying with the world church* *Praying through the Arts*
- *Does God answer prayer?* *Praying as a listener*

Coffee, tea etc provided - bring a packed lunch

Speak to Mark for further details

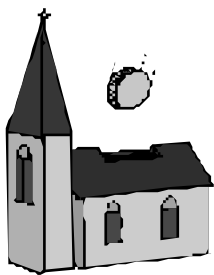
People in the pews up their giving

The income of local churches in England has been growing, according to the latest edition of Religious Trends. And church attendance, at 3.6 million, exceeds church membership.

The recent survey of 1100 churches found that income rose 13 per cent between 1990 and 1995, and 39 per cent between 1995 and 2000. At the turnoff the century it had reached £2.2 billion.

If these results are typical, than the average income per church in 2000 was £57,000, with the average giving at £12 per person per week.

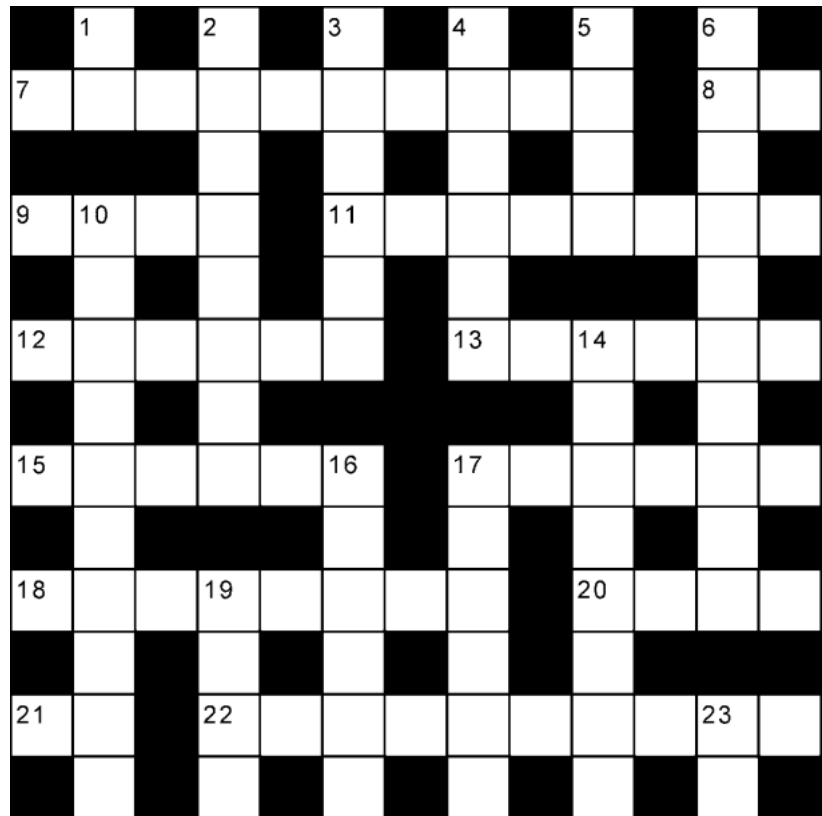
Religious Trends No. 4, 2003/2004 is edited by Peter Brierley, and published by Christian Research.



A blessing on you

*May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.*

October's Crossword



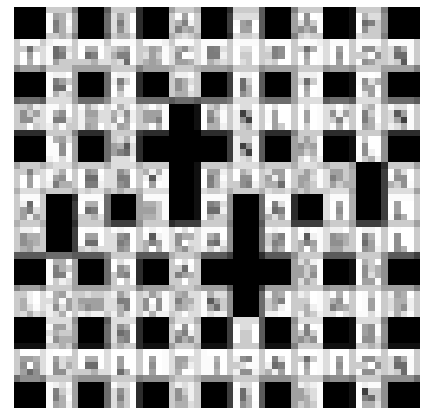
ACROSS

- 7 Region of NW Iran (10)
- 8 Half hearted laughter (2)
- 9 Watery wedding place (4)
- 11 Fortify (8)
- 12 The longest prophet (6)
- 13 Superior of a convent (6)
- 15 General tendencies (6)
- 17 Hotel Bible (6)
- 18 God with us (8)
- 20 The beloved physician (4)
- 21 Not off (2)
- 22 Happening by chance (10)

DOWN

- 1 Job was a resident of which land (2)
- 2 God had a hand in this (8)
- 3 Noah's father (6)
- 4 Indian people of Canada (6)
- 5 Single entity (4)
- 6 Battle fatigue (10)
- 10 Variety (10)
- 14 Seaport near Barcelona (8)
- 16 Grime (6)
- 17 Ethiopian baboon (6)
- 19 A dust man (4)
- 23 Is a backward mother (2)

September's Solution



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>)
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>
Thursday	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	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>
Friday	7.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Saturday	7.00 pm	Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i>
	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 Mondays. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and on alternate 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@fish.co.uk

TEAM CURATES:

The Revd Dr Mark Harris
24 Beauchamp Lane
Tel: 775098
Email: mark.harris@rl.ac.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
Helen Doling
Tel: 779626