

Life in Lent

My one weakness in my low-fat diet during the summer months is a Wall's Magnum ice-cream. I particularly like the almond Magnum which now, sadly, you can only buy in France - another excuse to holiday across the Channel! I noticed that Wall's ice-cream, trying to increase their share of the market, have introduced seven new Magnums named after the seven deadly sins - pride, envy, anger, sloth, greed, gluttony and lust.

Temptation is all around us. For some it may just be a liking for cream cakes. For others it might be a little more serious: the temptation to drink too much, eat too much, smoke too much, to be dishonest or to steal. In our own hearts we know where our weak spots lie. We know how draining such temptations can be.

I have pondered over my ways and returned to your will – Ps 119.59

This season of Lent is that time of the year when we can take stock of ourselves. Aware of our frailty and weakness, we seek God's help. As the years pass we may become less conscious of God's

calling in our lives, less conscious of our responsibilities as children of God, less conscious of our responsibilities to those who live around us. As fellow human beings, we all share in this predicament.

As we reflect on our own lives we know our need of God. We



longed for wholeness and integrity and yet fallen humanity seems to put this beyond our reach. Jesus reminds us that God reaches out to us.

Lent gives us that opportunity to reorientate ourselves and to focus upon the one who lived and died and rose again to give us life in all its fullness – life at

one with God

Lent, far from being a dreary and negative season, is a time filled with hope and the promise of new opportunity. As we take up the challenge of these weeks before Easter may we use it wisely and so come to appreciate more fully the

Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

Healing Services:

St Francis Church

Tuesday 2nd March 7.00 pm

St James Church

Wednesday 17th March

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.



GUARD YOUR SPIRIT

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

John 10:10

You can put bars on your windows, a security system in your car, a video camera in your business and your prized possessions in a sealed vault, but what are you doing to protect the most valuable possession you have – your spirit?

Job said: "...the breath of the Almighty hath given me life." (Job 33:4) When God breathed his Spirit into you, you became 'spiritually alive', now you have the ability to love him, serve him and bring pleasure to him. (Rev 4:11) That's what the thief is after: the part of God that's in you! To get at it, he'll attack your body. He'll also war against your mind and try to control you through fear. He'll even attack you through others.

When God breathed into Adam, he became alive, knew who he was and what he was called to do. Until you recognise that God has given you your life and made you for a specific purpose, others can breathe on you their identity and their agenda. That's dangerous, for whoever can define you can also control you.

You say, 'How can I protect myself?' The answer is to live and walk in the presence of God. David cried: 'For you are my safe refuge, a fortress where my enemies cannot reach me. Let me live forever in Your sanctuary, safe beneath the shelter of Your wings!' (Psalm 61:3,4) When you're there, the thief will not be able to touch you or anything you've got.



Sundays @ Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock

- March 7th Waiting on the Word
- April 4th The Way of the Cross
- May 2nd In His presence
- June 6th Exploring the Trinity
- July 4th Open to God



BEGINNING - AT LAST!

After what seems like a never ending delay, work is beginning on the new Rectory and Church Centre in Beauchamp Lane. The first phase from March to September will be the alterations and extension to Benson Cottage which will become the new Cowley Rectory.



The second phase will be the building of the Church Centre incorporating the old Scout HQ and the new curate's house. This will take place in the autumn after the demolition of the present Rectory.

The final phase, sometime next year, will be the building of flats on land now occupied by The Hut.

Challenging time for General Synod

Mission, human relationships, social issues, worship and ecumenical relations were the major themes in a challenging and broad ranging Synod agenda for the February Sessions of the General Synod, February 9-13.

In all, the agenda was probably the most extensive and demanding for several years, and included two groups of related debates.

One group included debates on church planting and fresh expressions of Church, followed by the Review of the Dioceses and Pastoral Measures, and the Strategic Spending Review. All these debates had a strong mission emphasis.

The second group included three debates that explored aspects of human relationships and sexuality. The report of the Doctrine Commission, which examines themes of time, power, sex and money, helped to provide a context within which the following debates on Some Issues in Human Sexuality and Cohabitation might be set.

Mission Shaped Church: church planting and fresh expressions of Church

This major report, from the Mission and Public Affairs Council, looked at developments in church planting since 1994 and at fresh expressions of Church, as new patterns of church community are established in the context of contemporary society.

Doctrine Commission Report: Being Human

The latest report from the Doctrine Commission explores a Christian understanding of what it is to be human, illustrated with reference to the themes of power, money, sex and time.

Some Issues in Human Sexuality

This report works within the parameters of the House of Bishops 1991 statement *Issues in Human Sexuality*. It is a study guide designed to complement *Issues*, and is intended as a resource to enable people within the Church to understand these complex and sensitive issues and to reflect more deeply upon them. The Synod was asked to commend the report for study and reflection.

Cohabitation

This debate was on a motion passed by the York Diocesan Synod in 2002, before the Government's present intentions were known. The York motion encompassed opposite-sex partnerships. By contrast, the Government has published a Civil Partnership Bill, which will centre upon a registration process for people in committed same-sex partnerships. The

debate was therefore particularly timely.

Asylum

This was another timely debate as the Government's Asylum Bill is before Parliament. The Government's proposals are primarily concerned with the appeal process and the use of legal aid, but they also provide a framework for the removal of support from families, in extreme circumstances, who are able but unwilling to return home once they have exhausted the appeals process. The debate is sponsored by the Mission and Public Affairs Council.

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is a global epidemic, which threatens human life, dignity and development; whilst it is a global problem, it is having a disproportionate impact on Africa, where its spread has undermined communities and reversed national economic and social development.

The debate provided an opportunity for Synod to consider the HIV/AIDS pandemic but with a particular focus on ways in which support can be given through the Church's mission and development agencies, diocesan companion links and the wider Anglican Communion generally.

The debate was preceded by an address from the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development.

Worship

There were three items of liturgical business, the major item being the proposed Common Worship Ordinal, which provided forms of service for the ordination of deacons, priests and bishops.

Ecumenical Relations

This debate, sponsored by the Council for Christian Unity, provided Synod with an opportunity to consider the work of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), with special reference to the 1999 report *The Gift of Authority*. The Council proposed that this report should be considered as a continuation of the statements on authority which were considered by Synod in 1986, and that contentious doctrinal issues should continue to be studied in the context of the developing, lived relationship between Anglicans and Roman Catholics, as reflected in local ecumenism and inter-church dialogue.

Clergy Terms of Service

The first phase report of the Review of Clergy Terms of Service was debated. The Review had examined the terms under which clergy without freehold hold office and recommended a new package of rights and responsibilities to include church legislation to provide greater job security for those clergy and to clarify their duties.



Rosanne interviews Brian Tidy

Fifty years ago Roger Bannister ran the first 4 minute mile on the Iffley Road running track, "The Bash Street Boys" made their first appearance in "The Beano" comic and a 24 year old Brian Tidy sat at the organ of St James' Church for the first time. If Brian were a stick of peppermint rock you would find the word MUSIC running right through the middle. That might make him sound rather boring but I assure you my interview with him was far from boring. Brian has a profound sense of the ridiculous. Though music has been his first love since childhood he has a good many other facets to his character.

As a small boy, born in Sussex and growing up in the countryside near Ashdown Forest, he was surrounded by music. He taught himself to play the piano before he was ten. He describes his parents as very musical. An only child and something of a loner he found by the time his parents moved to Worcester, that not only could he manage tunes on the piano but he had a fine treble voice. His father sang in the cathedral choir. He was, Brian told me, a bass lay-clerk. It was through this connection that Brian also became a cathedral chorister and was lucky enough to sing treble until he was 15. Sir Ivor Atkins, ("Saliva Atkins" as he was known to the boys) was his choirmaster. This eminent

gentleman was a personal friend of Sir Edward Elgar and had held the position of choirmaster since the Victorian era. Sir Ivor got to hear the musical ability of his young chorister and placed him under the tutelage of Charles (Charlie to Brian) Myers. He sorted out the lad's woeful lack of fingering technique on the piano and also began to teach him to play the organ. Is it any wonder that his technique was poor, when till then he was self-taught.

Brian's education at The King's School, Worcester, was centred on his music with missed lessons for special services, choir practices and so on. He gained his school certificate and left before completing his sixth-form course. Apart from his ability in cross-country running his school career was fairly unremarkable. His first job was as a junior clerk in the office of the local department of taxation. Then came National Service.

A stint in the RAF led to all sorts of fun. A posting to the Headquarters of the Middle East Air Force in Egypt found Brian, by then a very handy pianist, not only playing for NAAFI singing songs but also for a touring concert party which travelled all around the Gulf. One show he did was called "Christmas Crackers" (which reminded me of Brian, in cowboy hat,

red neckerchief and a waistcoat playing for one of our Parish Hall productions a few years ago). Another show with the natty title "Ad Astra Off Parade" brought back memories of his party pieces at the time. "The Dream of Olwyn", "The Legend of the Glass Mountain" and interminable requests for "The Harry Lime Theme".

In 1952, by then demobbed he moved with his parents to Oxford. Here he met and married Valerie, his first wife, and set up home in Dodgson Road, Cowley. His four children, David, Carol, Mark and Neill came along in due course. For a couple of years he played as relief organist in a number of local churches. He then applied for the position of organist at St James' Church, Beauchamp Lane and so began his long (record breaking?) association with our parish. The auspicious date was 1st April 1954.

His "day job" found him working at the Oxford University Medical School, where he remained for 43 years until his retirement. As well as organist, family man and his regular work he also spent time on his Dodgson Road allotment. He told me with a huge grin that in the annual – Best Allotment – competition he never managed to improve on second from the bottom.

The family moved to Henley Avenue in the early 70's and soon after Brian moved out. He spent the next five years looking after his mother. He met Eileen, divorced his first wife and married for a second time. Not only did he have a new wife but three stepdaughters and later on another daughter of his own. His huge family now includes a daughter-in-law, Louise, two grandsons, Joe and Lewis and step-granddaughter, Jessica. Living in retirement in Didcot he sometimes treats himself to a few days away to attend productions of much-loved operas. He assures me that life has not all been a bed of roses, but quoted a favourite maxim he picked up from a comedian friend, "there may be tears on my pillow but the rest of the bed's alright"!!

By the way Roger Bannister has stopped dashing round running tracks at amazing speeds, "The Bash Street Boys" have just been withdrawn from "The Beano", but after 50 magnificent years Brian still plays for services at St James' making the thirty mile round trip come rain, come shine and

even come ice and snow. We are very grateful.

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Quiet, shy a loner.

Have you any memories of childhood, which you'll never forget?

Two. The first one was of a bird's nest in the grounds where we lived. There were baby birds in it and when I went back to see them, there had been some terrible weather. The mother-bird must have been trapped or killed and all the baby birds were dead. I remember taking the nest and the dead babies home. I was very upset. The other was train spotting in the days of steam. I used to go to Railway Walk in Worcester. I'm still a train-spotter. I don't go and stand on the platform like I used to but I still get excited if I see one I haven't "got".

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

Mainly through music. I try to encourage people to express their spiritual feelings through the words they are singing.

What do you think is good about life today?

I relate things to my life. The best thing for me is that natural things never change.

And what makes you upset or angry about life today?

Motorists who don't use their indicators.

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

I'm an opera fanatic, still a real train-spotter. I still record all the numbers. On TV I enjoy a good series, I like "Morse" and "Coronation Street" is my favourite soap.

What makes you laugh?

Everything amuses me. I enjoy "Last of the Summer Wine", "The Two Ronnies" and "Morecambe and Wise", but everything really.

Do you have ambitions for the future?

Carry on regardless!

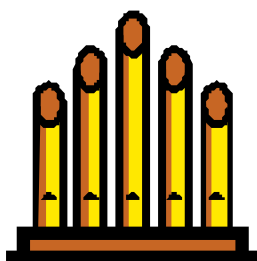
If you could change something in a spectacular way what would it be?

Clear the world of all terrorism.

Celebrating 50 years at St James

Brian Tidy - our Organist

Sunday 28th March at 4 o'clock



Drinks, food, music!

Come and join us for this momentous occasion!

Mothering Sunday

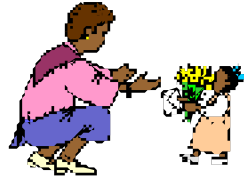
21st March

ST JAMES

10.00 am Family Eucharist

ST FRANCIS

10.30 am Family Eucharist



WHERE BABIES

COME FROM?



For weeks a six-year old lad kept telling his teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. Then one day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the

unborn child.

The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

The teacher finally took the little boy aside one day, and asked: "James, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

James burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mummy ate it!"

ANNUAL MEETINGS

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

THURSDAY 25th 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 1st April 7.30 pm following the Eucharist

ST JAMES CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday 2nd May 11.30 am following the Sunday Service

Be involved in electing your church representatives, our review of the last year, and our thinking about the next year



WHAT A WOMAN SEES IN HER

MIRROR

- Age 3: She looks at herself and sees a Queen.
- Age 8: She looks at herself and sees Cinderella.
- Age 15: She looks at herself and sees an Ugly Sister ("Mum I can't go to school looking like this!")
- Age 20: She looks at herself and sees "too fat/too thin; too short/too tall; too straight/too curly" - but decides she's going out anyway.
- Age 30: She looks at herself and sees "too fat/too thin; too short/too tall; too straight/too curly" - but decides she doesn't have time to fix it, so she's going out anyway.
- Age 40: She looks at herself and sees "clean" and goes out anyway.
- Age 50: She looks at herself and sees "I am" and goes wherever she wants to go.
- Age 60: She looks at herself & reminds herself of all the people who can't even see themselves in the mirror anymore. Goes out and conquers the world.
- Age 70: She looks at herself and sees wisdom, laughter and ability, goes out and enjoys life.
- Age 80: Doesn't bother to look. Just puts on a purple hat and goes out to have fun with the world.



MOSES REVISITED

Nine year old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

"Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed. "Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

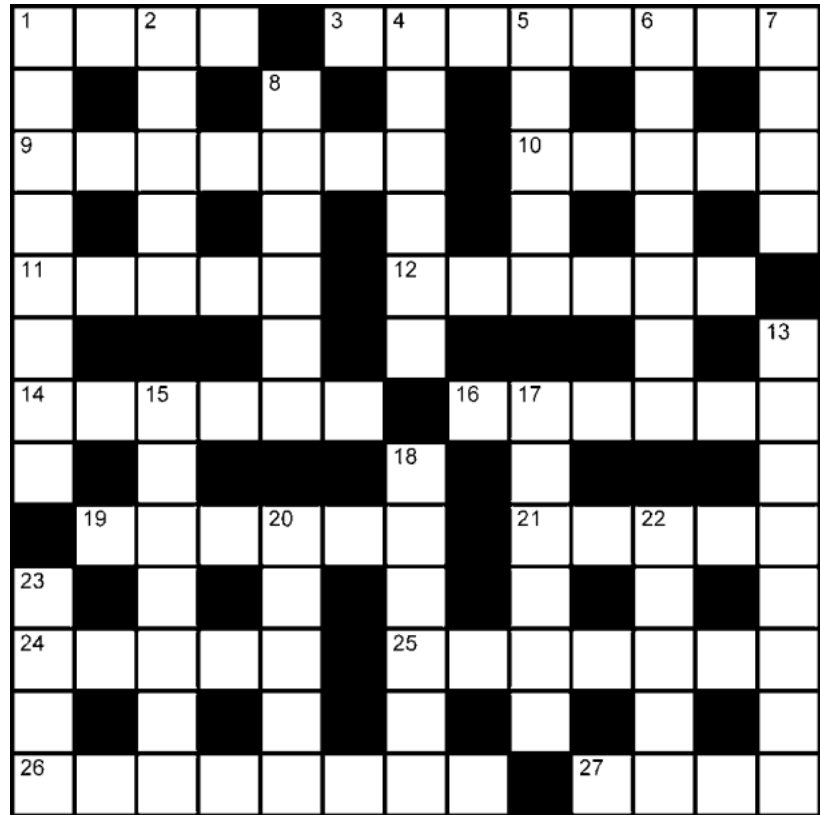


Lent

Is this a Fast, to keep
The larder lean?
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?
Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?
Is it to fast an hour,
Or ragg'd go,
Or show
A down-cast look and sour?
No: 'tis a Fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat
Unto the hungry soul.
It is to fast from strife
And old debate,
And hate;
To circumcise thy life.
To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

Robert Herrick

March's Crossword



CLUES

Across

- 1 Second gospel of the New Testament (4)
- 3 A native or inhabitant of Egypt (8)
- 9 Fourth book of Moses (7)
- 10 A collection of maps (5)
- 11 From that time (5)
- 12 The point or degree to which something extends (6)
- 14 Position eight (6)
- 16 The successor of Elijah (6)
- 19 Shares of something (6)
- 21 One of the gifts brought by the Three Wise Men (5)
- 24 Edible seeds of various pod-bearing plants (5)
- 25 Tempter of mankind (7)
- 26 Commit a sin (8)
- 27 Put into service (4)

Down

- 1 Tribe of Israel named after a grandson of Jacob (8)
- 2 A resident of Rome (5)
- 4 What do we call any of the four books which begin the New Testament? (6)
- 5 Fix or set securely or deeply (5)
- 6 Land masses surrounded by water (7)
- 7 A cosy or secluded retreat (4)
- 8 Turn away from sin (6)
- 13 Assembled together (8)
- 15 In what land was the village of Cana? (7)
- 17 The father of Noah (6)
- 18 Old Testament book of songs. (6)
- 20 A slow movement (5)
- 22 A flat boat (usually made of logs or planks) (5)
- 23 Utter with anger or contempt (4)

February's Solution

G	A	N	G	S	H	A	D	R	A	C	H				
O	A	G	A	O	B	A									
L	O	O	K	I	N	G	U	P	S	E	T				
G	M	D	G	G	A	H									
O	L	I	V	E	A	W	H	I	L	E					
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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>
	12.00 pm	Eucharist - <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 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,
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TEAM VICAR:

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Email: fj@fish.co.uk

TEAM CURATES:

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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