

Parish Directory

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES
Team Rector:
 The Revd Stephen Hartley,
 Cowley Rectory,
 Beauchamp Lane
 Tel: 747680
 Email: stephen.hartley@btinternet.com

Team Curate:
 The Revd Vernon Orr
 Bens on Cottage,
 Beauchamp Lane
 Tel: 779666
 Email: vemon.orr@lineone.net

Licensed Lay Minister:
 Eric Uren
 Tel: 770696

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY
Team Vicar:
 Fr John Tomlins on,
 St Francis' Vicarage,
 2 Meyseys Close
 Tel: 748915
 Email: fj@care4free.net

Associate Priest:
 Fr Peter Stanway
 22 Colleywood
 Kennington
 Tel: 739342

CHURCHWARDENS:
 Gwen Rankin
 Tel: 451417
 John Shreeve
 Tel: 717987

Deputy Wardens:
 Rosanne Butler
 Tel: 453257
 Pat Chung
 Tel: 767124

HALL BOOKINGS OFFICER:
 773620
weekdays only

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist
6.00 pm	Evening Praise [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 – <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 James</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>
	10.30 am	Pram Service – <i>St James</i>
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>Benson Cottage</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

Fr John, and Vernon have Monday as their day off; Stephen has Friday off. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest.

chronicle

Called to Share Life

Each year two people are elected at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting to become the Churchwardens for the following year. In May they are required to attend the Archdeacon's Visitation to be admitted into this Office at a special church service. During this service they make a public declaration in front of their Diocesan Registrar who wears his wig and gown as though in court.

The Archdeacon then delivers his charge to the Churchwardens, that is a talk setting out the things he wants to make sure they know. As Churchwardens are officers of the Bishop, they are also required to fill in a form at the end of their year of office called the Archdeacon's Articles of Enquiry which provide information for the bishop on the happenings in each parish. Every few years the parish clergy are invited to accompany the Churchwardens to the visitation which, on a this occasion is usually an Episcopal Visitation when Bishop Richard conducts the proceedings.

2001 was one such year and my co-Warden, John Shreeve and I, along with Stephen, Father John and Vernon, went to St Aldates Church to be sworn in and to listen to the Bishop's charge. Bishop Richard thanked us for sharing the evening with him and for the different ministries and gifts each one of contributed to our parishes. He said that he knew many good things that were going on in the city and parishes and his hope was that the Diocesan *Sharing Life* initiative would reinforce what was already happening and hopefully build upon it.

In the diocese, every diocesan board and council, every Deanery and parish, and each individual are all asked to look at four principles, priorities and values set out in the *Sharing Life* initiative.

In our parish the two Church Committees have started looking at these principles and plan to continue the discussions. The PCC and Church Committees will have a study-day in the New Year with Canon Chris Neil, Diocesan Director of Evangelisation, to help us all find new or different ways of sharing their love of God with many more by prayer and action.

This is a challenge to each one of us. I personally am going to begin with different prayers. How often do we pray for disadvantaged people who are setting fire to cars, those who are mugging old ladies, those who claim benefits to which they are not entitled? We may

not have the opportunities to meet these people and invite them round for a meal as Jesus ate with those on the margins of society in his day.

Being centred on God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the first principle with the priorities being the quality of our worship, increasing our prayer and engaging in pilgrimage and discovery.

Maybe as members of God's Church in this parish, we can begin our journey of discovery by thinking about this first principle of the *Sharing Life* initiative.



Gwen



Time to Think and Pray

After 27 years in the Ministry, I have been given a three month Sabbatical this Autumn. The Bishop encourages his clergy to take time out of the parish to reflect and pray about their ministry.

On September 8th, accompanied by a clergy friend, I will begin a five week pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela which is the traditional burial place of St James after whom our parish church is dedicated. After a ferry crossing from Portsmouth to Bilbao in Northern Spain, I will begin my walk from Roncesvalles in the Pyrenees, near the French border. The ancient pilgrim route takes walkers through the beautiful countryside of Galicia. Along the route, pilgrims stay in *refugios* – resting places where a bed can be found for a nominal cost. As the walkers make their way on the 500 mile walk, a special passport (*Camino*) is stamped. Once walkers have finally arrived in Santiago, they are invited to participate in a special Pilgrim Mass in the Cathedral of St James. Pilgrims with their *Camino*s adequately stamped are presented with a special certificate marking their achievement.

In early November, I will be spending some time in the College of the Holy Spirit which is the retreat house of the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles on the Isle of Cumbrae on the west coast of Scotland. During my stay I will be thinking about the contribution Celtic Christianity has made to the Christian life over the centuries.

In mid November Fr John and I will be sharing in a Diocesan two-day conference looking at Servant Leadership. This is part of a Diocesan initiative encouraging priests to look at their particular role within the ordained ministry.

tattooed numbers; and they were sent to brutal forced labour. But Maximilian Kolbe continued his priestly ministry. He heard confessions in unlikely places, and smuggled in bread and wine for the Eucharist. His sympathy and compassion for those even more unfortunate than himself was outstanding.

Then came the final scene in his hard life. At the end of July, 1941, several men escaped from his bunker at the camp. The Gestapo, in revenge, came to select several more men from the same bunker who were to be starved to death. A man, Francis Gajowniczek, was chosen. As he cried in despair, Kolbe stepped forward.

"I am a Catholic priest. I wish to die for that man. I am old; he has a wife and children." The officer in charge shrugged his shoulders - and obliged.

So Maximilian went to the death chamber of Cell 18, and set about preparing the others to die with dignity by prayers, psalms, and the example of Christ's Passion. Two weeks later only four were left alive: Maximilian alone was fully conscious. He was injected with phenol and died on 14 August, aged 47.

He was beatified by Paul VI in 1971. In 1982 he was canonised by Pope John Paul II, formerly Archbishop of Cracow, the diocese which contains Auschwitz. Present at the ceremony that day was Francis Gajowniczek, the man whose life Maximilian Kolbe had saved.

The English Church recognises Maximilian's courage by being included as one of the 20th Century martyrs depicted above the main door of Westminster Abbey

Vernon Moves On



Vernon's departure from Cowley was announced last month. The Bishop of Reading has appointed him as **Priest-in-Charge** of the Parish of **St Agnes with St Paul in Reading**. The parish will offer tremendous challenges to Vernon but his many

gifts will equip him well for the task ahead.

Vernon and Jenny's **last Sunday** with us will be on **9th December** when there will be a farewell service in the evening. He will be **licensed** to his new parish the following Tuesday (**11th December**). We shall have a coach to take us to Reading for this occasion.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE - Christian witness amidst 20th century suffering



Some people's lives seem to epitomise the suffering of millions, but also to shine with a Christian response to it. One such person was Maximilian Kolbe, 1894 - 1941, a Franciscan priest of Poland, and publisher extraordinary.

Maximilian was born at Zdunska Wola, near Lodz, where his parents, devout Christians, worked in a cottage weaving industry. Like thousands of others at the time, the family and their village was ground into poverty by Russian exploitation. In 1910 Maximilian entered the Franciscan Order, and studied at Rome. After his ordination in 1919, Maximilian returned to Poland, where he was sent to teach church history in a seminary. But a new factor had entered his life: he diagnosed with tuberculosis.

Living in post-war Poland was difficult enough, but with tuberculosis as well - most people would have quietly withered away. Not Maximilian Kolbe.

Instead, the tuberculosis gave Maximilian a sense of urgency - a sense of the brief transitoriness of this life. He knew his time was slipping away. Instead of teaching history, he determined to do something to help the Christians living in Poland now, in the tatters of Europe after the First World War. And so he founded a magazine for Christian readers in Cracow, who badly needed effective apologetics to help them hold to their faith in a chaotic world.

Soon, the obsolete printing presses (which were operated by Maximilian's fellow priests and lay brothers) were working overtime - the magazine's circulation had leapt to 45,000. Then the printing presses were moved to a town near Warsaw, Niepokalanow, where Maximilian now founded a Franciscan community which combined prayer with cheerfulness and poverty with modern technology: daily as well as weekly newspapers were soon produced. The community grew and grew, until by the late 1930s it numbered 762 friars.

Then in 1939 the Germans invaded Poland. Maximilian sent most of his friars home, to protect them from what was to come. He turned the monastery into a refugee camp for 3,000 Poles and 1,500 Jews. And the presses continued: taking a patriotic, independent line, critical of the Third Reich.

Kolbe was arrested by the Gestapo along with four friars. They were taken to Auschwitz in May 1941. Their names were exchanged for

At the end of November I will spend time at Loyola Hall on the outskirts of Liverpool on an eight day individually guided Ignatian retreat. Each day offers time for the participant to meet with the retreat conductor to reflect on aspects of the spiritual life and discern what God might be saying to the individual. St Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, devised his spiritual exercises which form the basis the eight day retreat.

I am grateful to Bishop Richard and to Sharon for allowing me to take advantage of a Sabbatical and to Vernon for staying on in Cowley until my return on Sunday 9th December. I hope that I will gain much in my time away which will be of benefit to us all in my remaining years here in Cowley.

STEPHEN

Ride and Stride – September 8th

This year the sponsored bike ride will take place on Saturday 8th September only the name has been changed to Ride and Stride to emphasise that those who can't (or don't want to) cycle can walk instead. We have taken part in these events for a number of years now and raised hundreds of pounds towards parish funds. If you possibly can, do take part either as a participant, a sponsor or a greeter at St Francis or St James' churches.



Sponsor forms are in church. The organisers have suggested that greeters could be sponsored and there are forms for that too! Let's see if we can beat our record this year, the most we raised as a parish was in 1998 when we raised over £450. By the way, I tend already, to call it a Hike and Bike day so please forgive me if I say the wrong thing when talking about it! Phone me if you want further information - 453257. Many thanks, Rosanne



Healing Service

Tuesday 28th August
7.30 pm.

St James Church

Receive Jesus' promise of healing through personal prayer



Sunday Evening Praise

Worship, teaching, prayer ministry in an informal setting.

Sunday
2nd September
6 o'clock

Speaker: Lynn Trainor



Rosanne interviews



Think of some of the busiest people you know and then of those people most prepared to give time to you when you ask. Don't you find the names often coincide? At this time of year no-one is more busy than head teachers so I was very grateful when Janice Gordon welcomed me to St Francis First School. After a long working day she offered me a cup of tea, a warm smile and over two hours of her precious time.

Janice grew up in the North East corner of England. An only child whose father worked at the Armstrong-Siddley car company, she remembers fondly the many stories told to her by her grandmother which instilled in her an abiding love of books. School was an absolute delight right through from five to seventeen. At her co-ed grammar school she developed artistic talent which opened the door to art college. From art college she went down to Sheffield to teacher-training college where she took English and drama as her core subjects along with required studies in education, psychology and so on.

She describes her Christian background as strong. One of her earliest memories is of, at the age of three, the Easter walk with her church congregation in Sunderland. She took part in church life, singing in the choir and gaining a scripture award at eight years of age. She was confirmed and then, at fifteen, opted out of church life altogether. It was some years before she found God calling her back.

Towards the end of her college course she met Chris, an editor of scientific books, through mutual friends. It was certainly a love match. Within six weeks they were engaged! His home was in St Albans and she went on to teach in St Albans where the couple have many friends. In the school where she was working she came to realise that many of her colleagues had an extra quality in their lives which was missing from hers. On investigation she learnt that they were all members of the same church and that they had been praying for her. She joined the church taking along her two young children Tom and Emily, and was soon joined by her mother who by now was living with them after the break-up of her parents' marriage. Through her Christian friendships she found a welcome in Abingdon when she, Chris and the family moved there in 1987.

Once in our area Janice found a post as an advisory teacher at the special needs centre in East Oxford. She soon came back to her first love, however, day-to-day teaching in a primary school when she was appointed Head Teacher at St Francis in 1993. She is a happy lady with a good staff team behind her. She declares that her greatest satisfaction lies in watching children achieve their potential. And the worst side of her job is coping with the mountain of paperwork which often keeps her at her desk until eight o'clock at night. Now...what was I saying about being busy?

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

My auntie Jane, a real Christian, she took me to church, told me Bible stories when I was little. She was an excellent cook, a confectioner and taught me to bake. She also taught me to sew and embroider.

Which incident in early life held special significance for you?

Finding out I'd passed my 11+ because it was a significant move in launching my career.

What sort of child were you?

Lively, articulate, imaginative, totally besotted by reading. I'd sit and read a whole book at the library so that I could bring three more home. I had lots of friends and was never lonely.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

My faith was strong in childhood. I got to fifteen and I couldn't see the relevance. At 35 I went back to the Church and made my strong commitment to God.

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

My happiest times were when I was first married and the children were young, but I'm a great believer in now.

Are there any aspects of modern life which you dislike?

I worry about the lack of family support and I find the cruelty and viciousness in present-day TV disturbing.

What is best about today?

I compare the comfort we have with even 50 years ago, improved education, public health, communication and travel. I am very keen for women to have an equal role in society.

How do you like to spend any leisure time you may have?

Reading (fiction, poetry, biography, history) is still a major passion. I sing in a choir, love my garden, enjoy the art world (galleries and so on), the theatre and, of course, my church.

What makes you laugh?

Off-beat things like 'The Goons', 'Monty Python'-type humour and often the children in school. I enjoy witty conversation and the written word.

If you had a magic wand what would you change?

I'd like to see an end to debt in the Third World and something done about AIDS.

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

I'd be a psychologist or a publisher (think of all those books!).

What do you hope to be doing in 10 years' time?

I hope to have gained a degree in art history or qualify as a counsellor (God will show me the way). I shall have done a world tour and by then be doing some service in my church community. I also plan to do V.S.O. for the Tear Fund. And be a grandmother.

*Janice Gordon
Head Teacher St Francis School*

