

A World is Waiting

Chronicle

The New Year is a time for hope and for a fresh start. We look back on the year past with sadness. Yet it has been as sad as most, certainly in my lifetime. Across the world, wars rage away from the intrusive gaze of the television cameras. Lives are blighted and those in search of their own new beginnings continue. The constant problem of those seeking asylum, the displaced and the ethnically banished grows.

In her Christmas broadcast the Queen spoke of the importance of faith and community in these difficult days. Faith and community lie at the heart of the Church. They are its twin pillars without which it cannot exist. The Church has to be a place of hope, a place of faith, a place of peace, a place of fellowship. But the Church is also called to be prophetic in its championing of the poor, the marginalized, and the refugee. The Church has to speak out against injustice, poverty, homelessness and the many other inequalities at home and abroad.

The Wise Men journeyed far to seek the one born at Bethlehem. There are millions who are similarly seeking for meaning on

their lives. There is a deep spiritual hunger which longs to be satisfied. The Church has to look carefully at how it might be able to play a part in meeting this need. At present many have rejected the institutional Church. It is seen as anachronistic and irrelevant. We have to be bold enough to step beyond traditional methods and present the Gospel in a fresh and appealing ways.



It takes courage and faith to rise to this challenge. The Church has been able to transform in the past and no doubt it will in the future. Jesus was radical and quite shocking at times. He challenged the cosiness of the establishment and thereby brought new life into the hearts of millions. We are ourselves are challenged to have that same

courage:

*Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting
equip thy church to spread the light.*

May I wish you all a very Happy
New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN COWLEY

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18TH - 25TH JANUARY 2002

Churches Together in Cowley have agreed to pray together every day during the Week of Prayer for 20 minutes at **7 o'clock**.

Please join us if you can!

Friday	18th	Blessed Dominic Barberi, Littlemore
Saturday	19th	St Mary the Virgin, Iffley
Monday	21st	Temple Cowley U.R.C.
Tuesday	22nd	St James, Cowley
Wednesday	23rd	Rose Hill Methodist Church
Thursday	24th	SS Mary the Virgin & Nicholas, Littlemore
Friday	25th	John Bunyan Baptist Church

UNITED SERVICE:

Sunday 20th Holy Family, Blackbird Leys at 6.30 pm

The Conversion of St Paul

25th January

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then on his way to Damascus Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped

him, literally, in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah he had longed for.

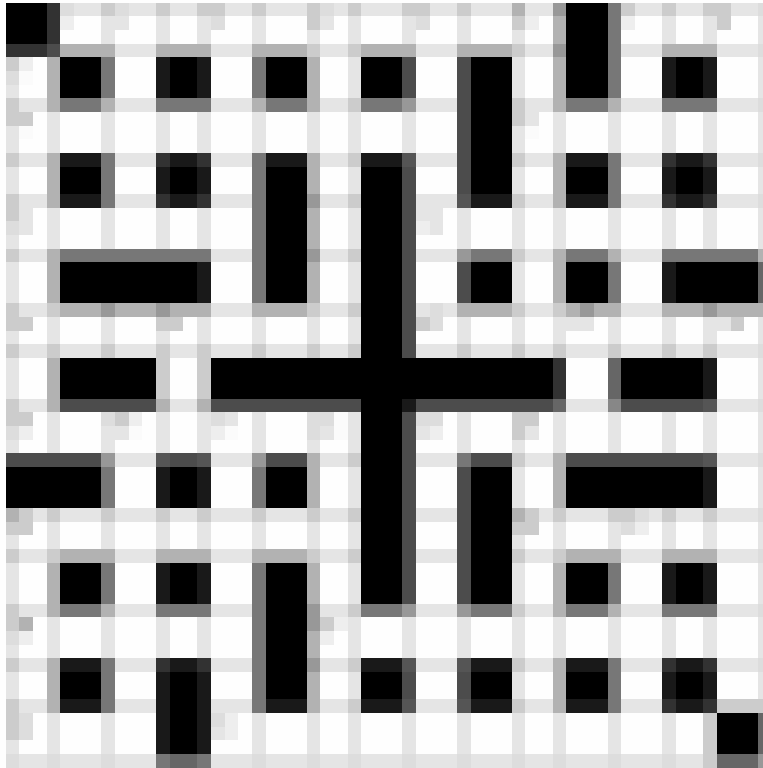
Saul changed overnight. He took a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote many epistles to the young churches he founded - and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: he was stoned, beaten, mobbed,

homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in AD 64, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many millions of people down the centuries.



Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Ant in a tangle runs straight from circle (10)
- 7 Traffic stuck in sticky stuff (3)
- 10 Scheming artist returned and phoned out for drink (9)
- 11 Zen meditation (5)
- 12 Samuel's royal followers (5)
- 13 Learned writers copy amidst the London area (7)
- 14 Archaic idleness (7)
- 16 Psalmist's third son - for whom he wept (7)
- 19 Angel makes Bill rage with Noel (7)
- 23 2nd month of the Jewish calendar (7)
- 25 Hara-kiri (7)
- 26 Slade playing at Bible Week? (5)
- 28 Kingly rule in shower, we hear (5)
- 29 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 30 Boat builder's son - a poor actor (3)
- 31 Long for (10)

DOWN

- 2 Breakdown service appears before little Ronald reaches Moses' brother (5)
- 3 First book starts new dawn (7)
- 4 Artlessness (7)
- 5 Substances ingested (7)
- 6 This man came forth twice (7)
- 7 Daughter of the King of Tyre, and wife of King Ahab (7)
- 8 Rich seams owned by a wise king (5)
- 9 Obscure king in sweetheart's embrace (8)
- 15 Muddled era of sound organ (3)
- 17 Burnt tree (3)
- 18 Joe's first boy founds tribe (8)
- 20 Tim eats sandwich after bread roll receives immersion (7)
- 21 Lizard (7)
- 22 Sounds like cricketing shrine (7)
- 23 Decorated with spirals (7)
- 24 Reposition ladders to reach leather worker (7)
- 25 Patriarch's wife found in a rash (5)
- 27 Legal shortcut (5)

Healing Service

Tuesday 29th January

7.30 p.m.

St James Church

Receive Jesus'
promise of healing
through personal prayer



Living Stones

A devotional reflection by the Archbishop of Canterbury

Living stones. That is what Peter in the Epistle called us Christians. It is an excellent description. Look around you at the materials used for the construction of your own local church. Some of them are prominent, some are not. Some are large and obviously strategic, others are small and seemingly insignificant. But each one is necessary and vital for the building as a whole.

Living stones. It is a peculiar image because stones are not alive. But Peter uses it deliberately to make two very important points - that the Church of God is something He is building and that in that process each person has something very distinctive and crucial to offer.

In our day and age we are being asked to address a very important question. What is the Church for? The answer is not as obvious as you and I might think. Many of us here have grown up in the Church. We know its glories and its faults and we take it for granted that, of course, everyone knows what the Church is for.

But do they? Even within your community, as you go around visiting, or talking to your neighbours, you will find many different responses. Some people think of it as is a religious club for people who need religion. Some believe that it exists simply to spread a moral message - thou shalt be good. Some would argue that its function is to sing its hymns and say its prayers. And sometimes we confuse good traditions and liturgies with the gospel itself. Some years ago a well known member in the British Parliament was heard to exclaim: 'If the Book of Common Prayer was good enough for St. Paul, then it's good enough for me'.

At this time when your thoughts will, rightly and inevitably, focus afresh on the mission of the Church in this area it is no bad thing to ask: What are we here for?

St. Peter gives us three good answers.

1. The Church is called to be a people built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. We are living stones built on a foundation. He is the corner stone. Let us never forget that the Church of Jesus Christ is that company of people from every nation and race called to follow him. That understanding of the Church is a challenge to denominationalism, because the Church of Jesus Christ transcends all our denominations. All those united with him belong to him and become part of the great company



of saints. Remember, no church is second class and God has no second class Christians.

Sadly we sometimes need to be reminded of that. The fact is that in Christ we are all equally precious, regardless of the colour of our skin, our accent or our background. As Christians we can have no truck with racism or anything else that may threaten to divide us in any part of our Churches. And that is an extremely important and relevant message today. Our unity in Jesus Christ is the basis for our mission to unite all people.

This unity needs to be worked out in our relationships. As Archbishop I occasionally get those letters which say: 'I am not going to that church because the vicar does not speak to me'. 'I am resigning as church warden because people let me down and expect me to do everything'. 'I am tossing it all in because the Church is so boring..'. Well, I would be the last to claim that there is such a thing as a perfect clergyman or a perfect church. All of us can at times be poor representatives of Jesus Christ. But I also want to say to them: 'Yes, it is easy to complain about being let down by men and women.

But, you know, the Christian life is not about the Reverend X and that Churchwarden, Mr Y. It is about following Jesus Christ. Sometimes the Church does get in the way of God. Never mind. Come to him, the Living Stone'.

We are called to be the people built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ - that foundation which does not come from us but from God.

2. The Church is a people who are being fashioned into a building. Look at the passage. 'Come to him, to that living stone and be like living stones built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood'. Archaeologists years ago found a stone in the ancient temple in Persepolis with this statement carved on it: 'I am a stone in the Palace of Darius, the King of Kings'.

I have sometimes wondered if Peter is saying something like this: 'I am Petros, one of the unprepared, undressed stones lying around in the quarry. Jesus Christ came and took this stone and began to fashion it according to his likeness. For 30 years now he has been at work, fashioning me so that I may

fit into his perfect building'.

You see, the work of the Church is not done when a person is baptised and confirmed. It is not complete when we take office in the Church. It is far from finished when we become deacons and priests, readers and churchwardens, or even bishops and archbishops. Our Lord wants us to be true examples of his flawless handiwork - that holiness of life which is characterised by true integrity and transparency of life - that sacrificial and glad offering of our talents given humbly and truly - that willingness to go the second mile for others and to put up with hardship, long hours and ingratitude for his sake.

So as a New Year begins, ponder seriously for a moment that God might not be finished with you yet. Ponder, I say, what great things God has in store for his church in this land; both in terms of what he has for you to become or indeed, for you to do!

This is adapted from a recent talk at a church in Bahrain.

Rosanne is taking her mid-winter break and will return next month!

Sunday Evening Praise

Worship, teaching,
prayer ministry
in an informal setting



Sunday

Epiphany 6th January



On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were they called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

Set to Make His Mark In Cowley

Having said 'goodbye' to Jenny and Vernon in style, several have asked whether we shall be having a replacement.

Bishop Richard has kindly agreed to appoint **Mark Harris** as Team Curate. Mark, at present completing his studies at Cuddesdon Theological College, will be made a Deacon in Christ Church Cathedral at the beginning of July.

Mark is a physicist who studied

at Cambridge before taking up a post at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory near Harwell.

He is married to Harriet, who is herself a priest, and who combines the roles of Curate of the University Church and Chaplain of Wadham College. Mark and Harriet have a delightful son, Ben, who is four months old.

Electoral Roll

2002 sees the compilation of a new Church Electoral Roll. The roll is an important feature of parish life as it determines who may vote in elections for Churchwardens and PCC members. It also serves as one factor in assessing our Parish Share which we have to give to the Diocese.



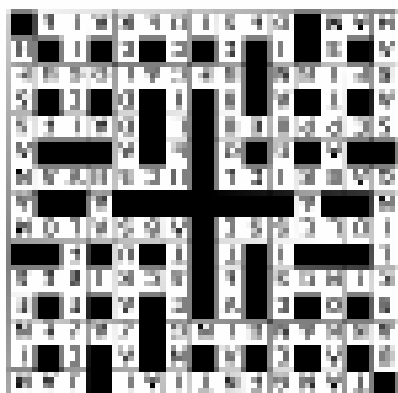
Every parishioner who wishes to be put on the new roll must fill in a new application form. Those already on the existing electoral roll will be sent a new form and invited to apply to be included in the new roll.

Christians in Crisis in Indonesia

There are about 28,000 internally displaced Christians in Tentena in Central Sulawesi in eastern Indonesia. Since June 2001 Islamic fighters have cleared the town of Poso and the surrounding areas of Christians. These Christians were forced to take refuge from the violence in Tentena.

Their resources are limited so they are living in miserable conditions. The Christians in Tentena are cut off and surrounded by thousands of Islamic fighters so food supplied to them has to be brought in by convoy under the protection of Indonesian soldiers and police. If the Laskar Jihad succeed in capturing Tentena, there will probably be a massive slaughter of the Christians there, and thousands of them will also be forced to convert to Islam.

Indonesian Christians have asked Western Christians to pray that the Islamic Jihad fighters will not be able to harm the thousands of Christians seeking refuge in Tentena. They also pray for religious tolerance and harmony in Indonesia, and that the attempts to Islamicise the country and to have Islamic law imposed will fail.



Morning Prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church
Saturday Mornings 9.15 am
all welcome



Welcoming the Euro

Some news we just picked up. Did you read it in the papers there? The European Union commissioners announced that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for European communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five-year phased plan for what will be known as EuroEnglish (Euro for short). In the first year, 's' will be used instead of the soft 'c'. Certainly, sivil servants will resieve this news with joy. Also, the hard 'c' will be replaced with 'k'. Not only will this klear up konfusion, but typewriters and komputers kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome 'ph' will be replaced with the 'f'. This will make words like 'fotograf' 20

per sent shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be ekspetek to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will enkorage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent 'e's in the languag is disgrasful, and they would go.

By the fourth year, peopl will reseptiv to steps such as replasing 'th' with 'z', and 'w' with 'v'.

During ze fifz year, ze unesesary 'o' kan be dropped from vords containing 'ou', and similiar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinasyon of leters.

After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer.



'...so, unless there are any other suggestions, this is how I propose we find our parish share this year!'

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist and Junior Church <i>[All-Age Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Praise <i>[1st Sunday of the month]</i>

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00 am	Holy Eucharist
10.30 am	Parish Eucharist and Junior Church <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>
	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 and Fr John Monday. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternate Sundays

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:

Sr Margaret Anne
All Saints Convent
St Mary's Road
Tel: 249127

Licensed Lay Minister:

Eric Uren
Tel: 770696

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

Team Vicar:

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

Associate Priest:

Fr Peter Stanway
22 Colleywood
Kennington
Tel: 739342

CHURCHWARDENS:

Gwen Ranklin
Tel: 451417
John Shreeve
Tel: 717987

Deputy Wardens:

Rosanne Butler
Tel: 453257
Pat Chung
Tel: 767124

COWLEY ASIAN FELLOWSHIP

Fr Wazir Chand
Tel: 714160

HALL BOOKINGS OFFICER:

773620
weekdays only