

Let's Freshen Up

I am a terrible hoarder of things. There is obviously a very strong link in my genes to the hunter / gatherer instinct of our ancient forebears. Some of the things I stack away are things which are really too useful to throw away - they may come in useful at some time in the future. Other things are those which have particular memories attached - guidebooks and leaflets about places I've been to on holiday, for example. Still other things are items which are pleasurable and just nice to have.

And so there are boxes full of stuff at various places in the house, book shelves full to overflowing, bits and pieces in drawers and cupboards - not to mention the garage! Some people are very different of course and seem to live in wonderfully neat and tidy homes where everything has a place

and there is a place for everything. Spring cleaning can be a very useful activity for both sorts of persons - and for those many in between the two extremes. As we see the signs of spring around, the freshness and newness of the world coming to life again, it seems to trigger in us that desire to tidy up and clean out. True, some of us may receive it with more guilt and trepidation than others who embrace it with real and obvious enthusiasm - but the tendency is widespread. And to have a good (or a bit of) a tidy up can give a real sense of achievement and satisfaction.



Spring time is also the time of Lent, and there are distinct parallels with all of this.

As we go about our daily lives, we are affected in all sorts of ways by the events and experiences of life. We face the jolts and knocks that life brings; we accumulate much wisdom through experience, but we also gather and retain much that is not helpful, things which restrict us and holds us back.

Lent is the time specifically in the Church's year to attend to a bit of spiritual spring cleaning. A time to reappraise, and try and get rid of things which are getting in the way. A time to clean out a few cobwebs and freshen ourselves up. Just as in tidying up and clearing out around the home, some of us face the task with more relish

and enthusiasm than others - but if we can achieve even a bit we know that we shall end up feeling much more refreshed, ready and prepared for the spiritual journey that lie ahead.

May God help us and bring that newness and freshness to our lives in the coming weeks.

Fr. John

Chronicle

Memories of Christmas 1942 and 2002 in Bournemouth

by Michael Blackler

On arriving at Durlston Court Hotel on Christmas Eve to spend the four days Christmas Festivities, my mind went back to the time whilst serving in the army during the Second World War. After six weeks training in the Royal Army Service Corps I was posted to the Royal Army Pay Corps at the Cumberland Hotel, which was the headquarters, and was billeted at Durlston Court Hotel for the year 1942/43. On Christmas Eve that year, I had to join the platoon for guard duty for the surrounding coast area of Boscombe Pier. This duty occurred once every ten days from 6 p.m. until 7 a.m. next morning.

After completing the guard duty and feeling somewhat tired, I returned to Durlston Court for a rest and breakfast. In 1942, in spite of food rationing, a Christmas lunch was served with roast turkey and all the trimmings, and was enjoyed by all who were unable to go home for Christmas. In the evening a party was arranged, and the ATS, who were billeted at the Picardy Hotel just opposite, were invited to join us.

Christmas 2001 was an entirely different occasion from that of 1942. There were about a hundred guests staying for the four days, and a truly wonderful time was enjoyed by all. The warmth and friendliness of everyone, including the staff, was most apparent the whole time. The food and service were excellent. At breakfast time on Christmas morning, there was a fanfare of trumpets ushering in an old man in a red coat and long white beard, who

distributed gifts to all who were present. This was certainly a magnificent start to the day. During the morning, I attended a lovely service at St. Peter's Church in the town centre, and a large crowd of people worshipped. After Church, I went for a brisk walk through the Gardens and along the promenade towards the East Cliff, returning to the Hotel over the zig-zag path in time for Christmas lunch. After lunch we took part in a Bingo session, and in the evening musical entertainment was provided.

Boxing Day produced another day of excellent food and entertainment. Lunch was a Buffet with an enormous choice, followed by a musical quiz. In the evening after Dinner, there was ballroom dancing until midnight.

On Thursday morning a coach outing was arranged, and we were taken to Blandford Forum and Wimborne, where we visited the Minster, and stopped for morning coffee. On this sunny day we all enjoyed our trip through the lovely Dorset countryside.

On Friday morning, after saying farewell, I caught the coach back to Oxford. This, indeed, was one of the best Christmases I have enjoyed for a long time.



St Valentine's Day



There are two confusing things about this day of romance and

anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on this saint's day - 14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February.

One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.



...I understand you've bravely given up smoking for Lent!

LENT AT ST JAMES

ASH WEDNESDAY - 13TH FEBRUARY

9.30am Holy Eucharist

7.00pm Sung Eucharist

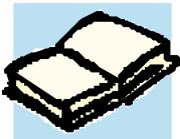
both services include the Imposition of Ashes

TUESDAY LENT EUCHARIST & LUNCH



Tuesdays at 12 o'clock beginning on February 19th. 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



Lent is a time when we remember Jesus' time spent in the wilderness wrestling with the demands of what lay ahead in his ministry. This year's Lent Course "*In the Wilderness*" focuses on five important themes with the help of contemporary leading figures in the English Church including, **The Archbishop of York, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, and Dr Elaine Storkey:**

- 1 JESUS, SATAN AND THE ANGELS
- 2 THE WILDERNESS TODAY
- 3 THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS
- 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 Franz and Maggie Stevens, 55 Church Hill Rd
- ◆ 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 18th February

Parish Weekend

Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd June
Offa House, nr Leamington Spa



**THE CELTIC
WAY**

**DISCOVERING OUR
CHRISTIAN HERITAGE**

Further details later this

Healing Service

Wednesday 20th February

7.30 p.m.

St James Church

Receive Jesus'

promise of healing

through personal prayer





Rosanne interviews David Tomlinson

This month I'd like you to meet a young man who enjoys being different. In these days of close-cut hair and designer labels, David grows his hair long, wears his casual clothes unfashionably loose and baggy, and what's more is a skateboarder. This, last fact I learned, is also most unfashionable and makes him a target for jibes from many of his contemporaries. Nor does he enjoy the current pop music scene, which seems so important to so many 15-year-olds

Arriving at my door straight from a day at school in his black and white St Augustine's uniform I thought (without wishing to embarrass him) that he looked as though he had stepped out of one of the illustrations of my much-read childhood story books!

The analogy doesn't stop there. David is the youngest of three brothers (Grimm's tales?) who chooses to go his own way. He chose St Augustine's Upper School because his two elder brothers were educated elsewhere. His great love is music. He is an excellent singer, plays violin to grade 7, also plays bass guitar and has recently begun to study piano as well. He regrets losing his young treble voice but is hoping he will mature into a strong tenor.

Before coming to live in

Cowley with his parents Fr John and Clare, and his two brothers he lived in Didcot. It was whilst at primary school there that he began violin lessons. On arrival here he attended Temple Cowley Middle School where he was very happy. The subjects he most enjoys are maths and all the sciences. Although he has GCSEs on the horizon, he is quite laid back about them. He does do his homework but it all comes pretty easily and he feels that there is no need to make a big issue of it. Reading for pleasure is not one of David's priorities, listening to music certainly is. So what kind of music? Well, his favourite classical composer is Vivaldi, and on the other hand his favourite band is a group called Rage Against The Machine. For our information (because I expect you're as much in the dark as I was!) he describes as a metal band with a strong funk influence. The lyrics of their songs, incidentally, are so reactionary against the American establishment that the CIA have closed down their website. He also visits the local venue 'The Zodiac' where he and his friends can enjoy gigs for as little as £6. And how do his parents react to this 'way-out' stuff? "Oh, they tolerate it" was the answer.

The main area of disapproval at home seems to be his

(predictable) untidiness. He describes his room as a tip even when he has spent time tidying up, and the whole family knows when he has been in the sitting room by the trail of detritus he leaves behind. He has a group of friends who enjoy making music together, a special friend with whom he skates, a girlfriend, but in particular a mum who serves up brilliant food. He does sometimes fall out with his brothers John and Will but that isn't too much of a problem. He quite likes his dad being a priest and certainly doesn't feel he's on show or under pressure in any way. All in all he's a happy young man.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

I enjoyed attention. I was quite loud. At school I got into trouble for fighting and for doing the things that small boys do.

Do you have any childhood memories which make you think "I'll never forget...?"

Yes, mum told me that there would be violin lessons at my new school and I'll never forget walking home with my first violin when I was eight-years-old.

Has God been a part of your life since childhood?

Well, I still really don't know what I believe in. Sometimes when I'm playing music I feel something and it always

happens when we're singing in harmony. I think that has something to do with God

What are your views about modern society?

In this country you're allowed to be yourself, that's important. Oh yes (with a grin) and electricity is quite good too.

What makes you angry or disappointed about life today?

That governments are so selfish. After September 11 America couldn't talk about what to do; they had to go and bomb Afghanistan.

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

Every sort of music except awful garage stuff. That I don't like. I go to lots of gigs and I go skateboarding.

What makes you laugh?

Dark comedy, if it's a send-up. There's a programme on TV called The League of Gentlemen which I think is really funny.

Do you have ambitions for the future?

Just to be happy – I don't mind what I do. I would like a job in sound engineering though.

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

I'd like everyone, everywhere to celebrate the fact that each of us is different. Yes, I mean celebrate.



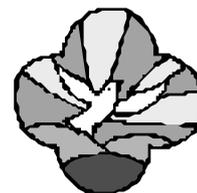
Baptism and Confirmation Service

with Bishop Richard

St James Church

Friday 15th February 7.30 pm

Please pray for members of our parish



preparing for Confirmation:

Mark Bourne Audrey Moore
Katie Bourne Pat Mazonowicz
Peter Hunter

Lent at St Francis

Ash Wednesday

9.30am Holy Eucharist

7.00pm Sung Eucharist

both services include the Imposition of Ashes

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A Course for Lent -

**Praying with the
Inspiration of St Francis
and Assisi**



A course for busy people, (ie all of us), who long to set the busy-ness of life to one side for a while and draw closer to God in peace and quiet, calm and tranquillity. We will be using some images and examples from the life of St Francis and Assisi as guides and inspiration to lead us into stillness and prayer, to become open to God, and allow Him to draw us into His presence.

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

'Be still, and know that I am God'

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Services at St Francis during Lent

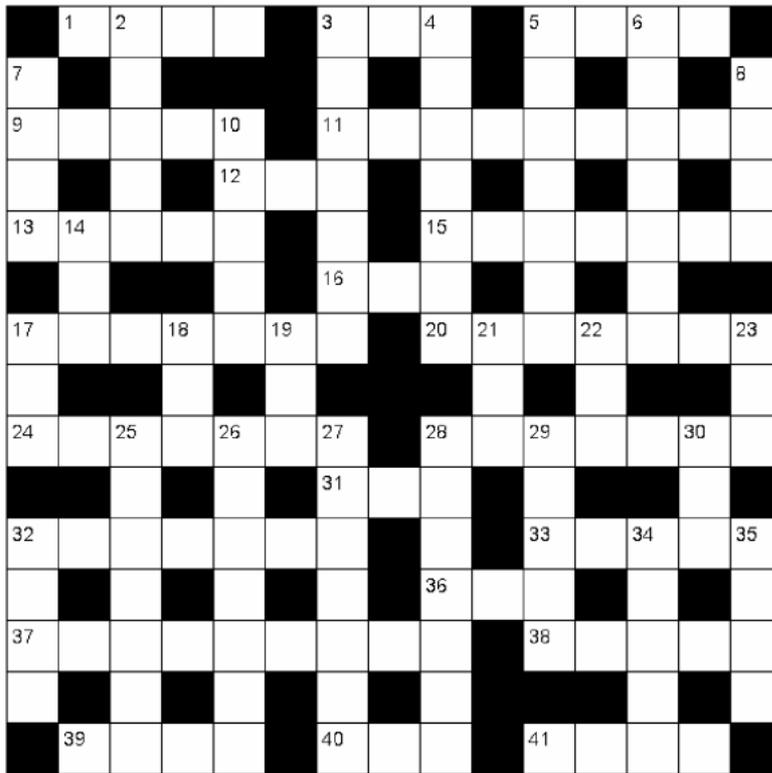
these will all take place in church -

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.

February Crossword



- 19 Letter Z (3)
- 21 Wood sorrel (3)
- 22 Lever for rowing (3)
- 23 Naught (3)
- 25 Disown (7)
- 26 Very long (7)
- 27 Spasmodic (7)
- 28 The first book of Moses (7)
- 29 The tower built by the descendants of Noah (5)
- 30 Snakelike fish (3)
- 32 An auction (4)
- 34 Confused mixture of sounds (5)
- 35 Sea eagle (5)

Readers have asked to be delivered from temptation by having the solution printed in next month's issue!

The clues for this month's crossword are very straight forward. They are not cryptic, as several users felt the first crossword was too hard. Please do not hesitate to let us know what you think!

ACROSS

- 1 The first son of Noah (4)
- 3 Girl or woman (3)
- 5 Leaf of a book (4)
- 9 Who led the Children of Israel out of Egypt (5)
- 11 Feral hog (9)
- 12 Highest mountain in Crete (3)
- 13 Stigma (5)
- 15 Dwells (7)
- 16 Influenza (3)
- 17 Know (7)
- 20 The second son of David and Bathsheba, and builder of the temple (7)
- 24 Enigmas (7)
- 28 God's heavenly messenger (7)
- 31 Not (3)
- 32 Daniel saved this woman after she was falsely accused of adultery (7)
- 33 The sacred book of Judaism and

Christianity (5)

- 36 The first woman and wife of Adam (3)
- 37 The third book of Moses (9)
- 38 Father of Leah and Rachel (5)
- 39 Swing to and fro (4)
- 40 Affirmative reply (3)
- 41 One of the gifts brought by the Three Wise Men (4)

DOWN

- 2 The first of the Minor Prophetic books (5)
- 3 Long-necked ruminant (7)
- 4 The name of two people of the New Testament. The name means "God has helped" (7)
- 5 Umbrella used as a sunshade (7)
- 6 Old woman (7)
- 7 One of the twelve books of the Minor Prophets (4)
- 8 Supplements (4)
- 10 On what Mount did Moses receive the Ten Commandments (5)
- 14 How many fish did Christ have to feed the 5000 (3)
- 17 Automobile (3)
- 18 In which land did Cain live after he murdered Abel (3)

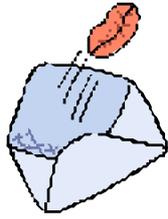
Sunday Evening Praise

Worship,
teaching,
prayer
ministry
in an
informal
setting



**Sunday
3rd March
6 o'clock**

The very first Valentine card - a legend



The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he

outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

27th - Shrove Tuesday



The Tuesday that follows the first eyelash of new moon in February is the last of the three days of what is called 'Shrovetide' (these include the difficult to pronounce Quinquagesima Sunday as well as Shrove Monday.) On this day the penitents received absolution and prepared themselves for the rigours of Lent.

They began with a party! After all, anyone who was about to keep Lent seriously would have forty days of austerity ahead. So all 'forbidden' food in the larder was eaten now - on Shrove Monday the eggs and meat were finished off, and on Shrove Tuesday everyone made pancakes - for with the stroke of midnight even butter and fat would be exiled.

Mothering Sunday

10th March

ST JAMES

10.00 am Family service

11.15 am Eucharist

ST FRANCIS

10.30 am Family Eucharist



Women's World Day of Prayer

CHALLENGED TO RECONCILE

An inter-denominational service prepared by the Christian women of Romania



Friday 1st March

2.30 pm John Bunyan Baptist Church

7.30 pm St Francis Church

[Speaker Sr Margaret Anne]

Through the Women's World Day of Prayer

Women are encouraged

- *to be aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation*
- *to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them*
- *to become more aware of their talents and use them in the service of others*

Morning Prayer

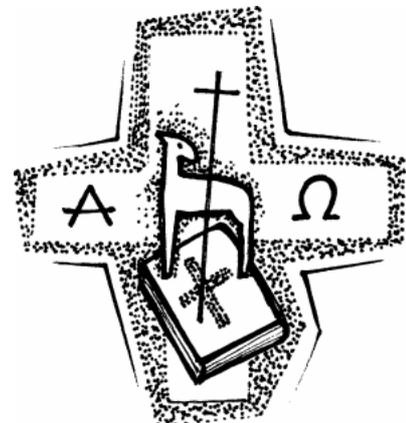
& Breakfast

St Francis Church

Saturday Mornings

9.15 am

all welcome



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 – *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 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