

DIARY OF A NEW CURATE

Chronicle

I'm writing this at the end of my first full day as a new curate in the Cowley Team. It began with a wake-up call from my 10 month-old son Ben at 6.15 am, so at least I was wide-awake for Morning Prayer. Next was a very intricate two-hour staff meeting to finalise the Sunday morning rota for the next few months. I struggled to keep up, but realised I was fighting a losing battle against the seemingly endless lists of new names and places. I've clearly got a steep learning curve ahead of me. To recover, I went down to the Cowley Centre afterwards for a cup of coffee. There it really hit me that I was ordained, because I began to notice people giving me strangely intense looks in my new clerical shirt.

This is only my second day of wearing a dog collar. The first was Sunday, when I was ordained deacon at Christ Church Cathedral. Many people have asked me since what I felt during the service, as though some magical change might have come over me. But of course, nothing magic goes on. One analogy I've heard is that it's a bit like a wedding, and the preacher at the service described us as "brides", about to be married to the

Church. I'm not sure that it's a very successful analogy though, because all of us are "married" to the Church by being committed to it, not least through baptism. But I can see what he means; I was certainly as nervous at the ordination as I was on my wedding day. And funnily enough, my wife Harriet had likened the ordination to a wedding just before I left for the pre-ordination retreat three days earlier. She said that it was

like sending me off to be married – to someone else! And she should know, she's a priest herself. Sunday evening was a marvellous welcome to the parish. Thank you so

much to everyone who made the evening happen, and to those who provided food. I've never seen so many cakes in one place, and we were given a doggy bag that will keep us going for some time to come. By now, we've been living in Cowley for almost 3 weeks; we're already very happy here, but it's even better now that we're beginning to meet you all.



Mark

The Mission To Seafarers

Worldwide care for seafarers

For months, volunteers at The Mission to Seafarers in Vancouver supported a Filipino seafarer in hospital. He faced operations on his crushed limbs following an accident on board ship.

Their care included daily visits, cooking and feeding him Filipino food, and helping with telephone calls to his wife. They threw a party at news of her pregnancy. Soon he will leave hospital for the Philippines, and a reunion with his wife and new daughter.

These recent examples show the Mission in action, providing practical and spiritual care to seafarers of all races and creeds. The Mission works through a network of chaplains, staff and volunteers in 300 ports around the world. They visit seafarers on their ships, offering a welcome to port and help if needed.

The Mission to Seafarers is one of the main mission agencies of the Anglican Church. It was founded in 1856 as The Missions to Seamen. Without the prayers and financial support of parishes in the UK and abroad, the Mission could not continue to serve the world's 1.2 million merchant seafarers.

Many seafarers do not work for concerned and supportive shipping companies. The Mission is often a lifeline for those abandoned by bad owners and left stranded without money or food in ports thousands of miles from their homes and families.

It will bring food and water, warm clothing for ill-equipped crews, and even fuel to power the ship's heating and cooking equipment.

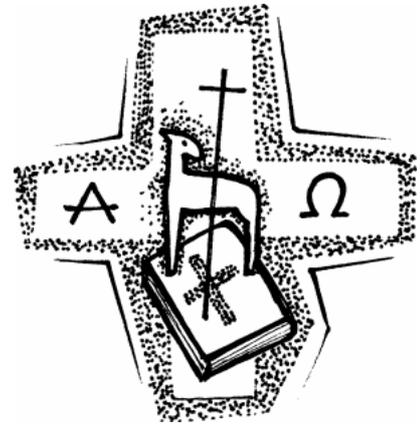
In the 19th century, Mission chaplains campaigned against appalling conditions and the way that seafarers were badly treated. Worldwide, Mission chaplains say that conditions for many seafarers have not improved. That is why there is still a need for The Mission to Seafarers in 2002.

Morning Prayer

& Breakfast

St Francis Church
Saturday Mornings
9.15 am

all welcome



Bourton to St Francis Pilgrimage

Mon 22nd - Wed 24th July



Calling all young people! Would you like to join us on our next pilgrimage? We will walk, sleep on hall floors, have simple meals, spend time together - and have a good time!! The cost is £25 and if you would like to know more or want to come, please speak to Fr John.

This year we will, for a change, be walking back to St Francis' - at the end of our pilgrimage on Wed 24 July there will be:

a Eucharist, at about 6pm, St Francis Church - followed by a barbecue at 88 Temple Road (bring your own food)

everyone is invited to these.

It should also be possible for anyone who would like to come with us, but who can't manage the whole 3 days, to join up with us for a day or a part of a day - if you'd like to do this, speak to Fr John.

Healing Service

Tuesdays 10th July &
20th August
7.30 p.m.

St James Church

Receive Jesus'
promise of healing through personal prayer



Slavery Today

by John Gaselee, a direct descendant of William Wilberforce

When I mention that I am very involved with slavery, people often give me a funny look. But it's true. William Wilberforce, who is remembered by the Church on 30 July (the day after his death in 1833), was one of the Christian



leaders who brought about the abolition of slavery in the British colonies. But I, as one of his descendants, know that slavery, today, is rife; not the same kind of slavery, but slavery just the same. We are thinking of people who, through force or violence (or threat of it) are unable to escape from their work.

Conservative estimates put the number enslaved world-wide (including in Britain) at about 27 million: children, women and men, in that order. But this is not just child labour (fine, if you are part of a family enterprise); this is child slave labour - hand-knotting carpets in SE Asia seven days a week, forced prostitution in the Far East, young boys imported across the Indian Ocean for the dangerous occupation of racing camel jockeys in the Middle East, children seized for herding cattle in Sudan - and so the list goes on.

People, today, are forced, enticed, sold, given and born into slavery. It is usually the weak and vulnerable who are caught up in it.

Women may be offered good-sounding jobs to travel to Europe - with the prospect of sending money home to help their families. But, you have guessed, there is no money to send home, and they are enslaved in menial work,

prostitution, etc.

Men may be enticed to work hundreds of miles from home in Brazil. When they arrive, they are told they owe money for their transport, food, etc. They are in debt bondage. In theory, they can pay off the debt by working. In practice, 'creative accounting' ensures that the debt is never paid off.

Or a man may be working for an employer, but need a loan (perhaps for medical treatment for a parent). The employer provides the loan - which is unlikely, officially, to be paid off. When a bonded labourer no longer can work, his children have to take on the 'servicing' of the debt.

Most slavery is hidden from us in the western world. Multi-national companies now appreciate that they must do all they can to avoid their goods being tainted with slave labour - but it is not easy to trace all the way back to, say, how the cotton was harvested.

Some tea companies have their own estates, with good employment. Fairtrade products are free from slave labour. Otherwise, tea, coffee,

cocoa (for chocolate making) go through markets. Some will have been produced with slave labour. Much of to-day's slavery does not involve goods which are exported. It is in local agriculture, brick kilns, domestic work, etc. Perhaps surprisingly, most countries do not need to follow the example of William Wilberforce, and introduce legislation against slavery. It is already in place; what is needed is the will of governments to enforce it. Too often, corruption keeps slavery flourishing.

Members and supporters of Anti-Slavery International are playing their part in this generation. Anti-Slavery is the world's oldest human rights organisation. Founded in 1839, it is a registered charity. It researches and campaigns internationally. It works closely with local organisations on the ground - consisting of escaped slaves, those with relations in slavery, and activists putting their own lives at risk. It is helped by individuals of all kinds, governments, other charities, charitable trusts, the Community Fund (from the National Lottery) - all determined to help to end the enslavement of individuals,

wherever they may be.

Anti-Slavery International, Thomas Clarkson House, The Stableyard, Broomgrove Road, London SW9 9TL
www.antislavery.org 02075 01892.0

ST JAMES PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Thursday 25th July

PATRONAL EUCHARIST & DEDICATION OF THE NEW PORCH GATES

7.00pm

Preacher: The Revd Dr Harriet Harris,
Chaplain of Wadham College &
Curate of St Mary the Virgin
Church, Oxford

followed by Party in Church Centre





Rosanne interviews Martin Cox & Family

This “double issue” meant that this month I needed to find a subject larger than usual! Well, I’ve already interviewed a married couple so what else was there but a whole family? And what a family! So multi-faceted that I’d feel inclined to liken it to a well-cut diamond!! I arrived to find a home hung with a Union Flag for the Jubilee and the cross of St. George for – well, I don’t need to tell you – and was greeted by Martin who is dad. As William was relaxing with his computer game it was suggested that the kitchen table could be the place for a chat. A good choice as from there I got a splendid view of a garden designed to allow for “letting off steam” complete with a large trampoline. Moments later Barbara, mum, arrived with her daughter Emily and Henry, an unusual and much loved mongrel, fresh from their evening walk.

As six-year-old Emily had lots to say we’ll start with her and work our way up. You first notice her startlingly blue eyes and her hands full of feathers she has found in the park. She is constantly on the look out for nature trophies to bring home and showed me with pride a bird’s skull in a poly bag. She is in her first year at St. Francis’ School which she says is lovely especially literacy hour with its reading and writing lessons. She read me several pages of her home reading book and finished it off with my husband, Frank, who came to pick me up. Her likes

include cuddling Mummy, going to bed, talking to Jesus and trampolining. . Without moving from my chair I was treated to an exhibition of Emily’s considerable trampolining skills. Sophie, who is seven, also attends St Francis’s school and is a “people person”. She has a large circle of friends with whom she enjoys tea-and-play sessions. She plans to be a hairdresser, maybe a beautician. A realistic ambition as her Mum told me that to look right is important to Sophie even to checking that her lipstick is in place. She is learning to play the piano “with daddy”, goes to a disco-type dance club where she is practising for a bronze medal and is seldom still. At school she enjoys maths.

The oldest, William, is nine. He loves school though he gets a bit fed up with the rigid timetable at Temple Cowley Middle after the flexibility of his days at St Francis. He enjoys history lessons and is currently studying the Tudors with enthusiasm. He is a natural loner and often takes his sketchbook out, especially on holidays, bringing home some pretty impressive results. Of course, he supports the England football team and like so many other children of his age relaxes with his Playstation. In gymnastics he has gained silver and gold national (B.A.G.A.) awards. He wants to become a film and TV stuntman. After he had climbed a tall tree and launched himself

from it into an extended routine on the trampoline I saw where he was coming from.

Barbara Cox captivated her husband-to-be the first time he saw her with her incredible blue eyes. It’s easy to see from where daughter Emily got hers. A Yorkshire girl, Barbara grew up in the lovely countryside near Beverley. Her earliest ambition was to be a vet. She had her own horse and still finds riding is a good way to relax. However, after taking O Levels, her attention turned to nursing. She describes herself as the clown of her class, full of fun and rather noisy and naughty. Her early nursing training brought her to Oxford and she soon found herself joining St Aldate’s Church Music Group. A friend found out that she has a good voice and persuaded her to join. There Martin “found” her and after five years of building up his courage he finally proposed marriage. A course in paediatrics in Nottingham for Barbara meant an enforced separation and “absence made the heart....” It was at St Aldate’s in 1984 that Barbara became a Christian and it was also there that she and Martin had the most joyous of weddings, party poppers and all.

Martin can’t remember when God was not an important part of his life. He was not brought up in a particularly religious family but he discovered Sunday School as a very small

boy and loved everything about it. He remembers being sent off, at three or four years of age, to walk to church and he and I spent a moment grieving that even in country areas one can't allow children to do that anymore. His childhood home was in Thetford, Norfolk where his family owned a florists shop and ran three market stalls. He attended both his local primary and grammar schools moving on to the University of Kent at Canterbury. After graduation he trained to teach and took up his first post at Headington Middle School in 1982. He is currently deputy head at Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School and is training to move on to headship in the near future. I was so grateful to him for sweeping aside a pile of school reports needing urgent attention to give us this interview. Barbara is a full time working wife and mum whose time is precious too. Somehow you get the impression that here is a family who doesn't waste a moment, don't you?

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

B: My mother. She had a strong influence in my life. She is a homemaker and was always there when we came home.

M: My very first Sunday school teacher, Mrs Willis. She was a natural storyteller and I couldn't get enough of her wonderful Bible stories.

Do you have a memory of your childhood which prompts you to say "I'll never forget...?"

B: I remember my brother brought the school rat home for the holidays. I was told not to touch it but I took it out of

its cage and dropped it. It died (I suppose of a heart attack). We tried to replace it but we couldn't get one the same colour!

M: I remember chasing my brother into the road and I tripped and smashed my face into the pavement breaking my front teeth.

Has God always been part of your life?

B: No – I became a Christian 18 years ago.

M: Yes – since I was about four. What do you think about modern society?

B: It is exciting to know about other parts of the world. Foreign travel and access to other countries is especially good for children.

What disappoints you about life today?

B and M: There is too much apathy. People are so insular and isolated from their neighbours.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

M: I love holidays. I enjoy playing my piano and composing pieces for the recorder.

B: If time were my own I'd choose horse riding or walking the dog at Shotover. I quite like being creative – drawing, collage, silk painting and so on.

What makes you laugh?

B: Play on words. Victoria Woods' way of looking at life.

M: Irreverent political humour such as Rory Bremner and "Have I Got News For You".

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

B: In terms of achievement when I first qualified. I was the first member of my family to be adventurous, spread my wings and be my own person.

M: After coming through my first couple of years in teaching I was making new friends at church, I'd just met Barbara, and we had a common interest in the music group.

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

B and M: We'd really like the debt of the poorest countries completely cancelled. We'd like to make the government take the lead and grasp the nettle, that would be a real jubilee.

B: I'd like to iron out all the inequalities amongst all people.

Have you plans for the future?

M: No more children! I'm aiming for a headship in a small town school.

B: It's good to have plans but it's good to live each day as it comes. You need to take your plans to God and let him shape them for you.



Open to God

there's lots going on
in our lives at the moment
both personally
and corporately in our churches;
as we look to God in all things
there will be a



Eucharist at St Francis Church 7.30pm Tuesday 16th July

Celebrant: The Revd Susie Simpson

(who spent some time with us during her training for ministry and
is now Assistant Curate of All Saints', High Wycombe)

followed by light refreshments

Be Thou My Vision

a Quiet Day with a flavour of our
Celtic Christian heritage

**ST FRANCIS CHURCH
Saturday 3rd August
10.15am - 3.30pm**



A time for quiet, stillness, reflection and relaxation in God's
presence. Come for the whole time,

or dip in and out as you like and as you have time.

Bring and Share Lunch from 12.30 - 1.15pm

The day will finish with the **Eucharist** at 3.00pm

Further information from Fr John

Sunday Evening Praise

Worship, teaching,
prayer ministry
in an informal setting

Sunday

**1st September
6 o'clock**

no service in August



ST MARY MAGDALEN

22nd July

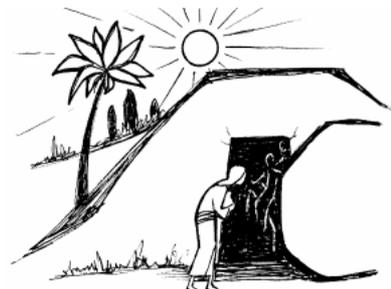
It is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalen over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life.

Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from Magadal, a small village near Tiberias in Galilee. She became his follower to the bitter end. She followed him to Jerusalem and was present during the crucifixion, standing heart-broken at the foot of the cross. Her love for Jesus did not end there, for she went to the tomb to anoint his body on the Sunday morning.

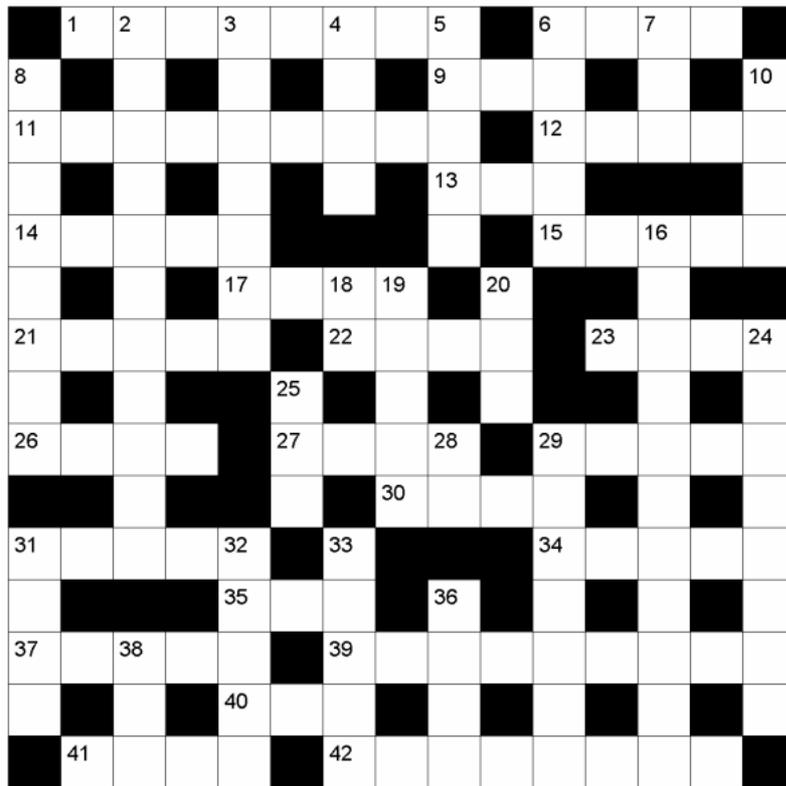
Such faithful, humble devotion was richly repaid: it gave her a unique privilege among all mankind: she was the first person to whom the Risen Lord appeared on Easter Sunday morning. She thought He was the gardener at first.

Mary Magdalen has sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon (Lk 7.37).

Over the centuries many artists have painted this scene. Mary Magdalen's feast has been kept in the West since the 8th century. England has 187 ancient churches dedicated to her, as well as a College in both Oxford and Cambridge.



July and August's Crossword



- brother Cain (4)
- 16 Drunken feast (11)
- 18 Part of the verb - to be (2)
- 19 Unit of frequency (19)
- 20 Poetic tale or ballad (3)
- 24 Who was the youngest son of Jacob (8)
- 25 French vineyard (3)
- 28 Short greeting (2)
- 29 Grow together (7)
- 31 The first King of ancient Israel (4)
- 32 Who led the Children of Israel out of Egypt (5)
- 33 Measured (5)
- 36 Musical composition for one (4)
- 38 Doctrine (3)

ACROSS

- 1 An Old Testament book containing expressions of wisdom and experience (8)
- 6 Sturdy twilled fabric (4)
- 9 New Zealand parrot (3)
- 11 Collective name for those sacred writings which are not included in the Bible (9)
- 12 Together with Joshua, he reconnoitered the land of Canaan for Moses (5)
- 13 How many fish did Christ have to feed the 5000 (3)
- 14 An ancient kingdom of Arabia, famous for its queen (5)
- 15 The tower built by the descendants of Noah (5)
- 17 Who was the builder of the Ark (4)
- 21 Insert (5)
- 22 Alcoholic drink of fermented honey (4)
- 23 Crust covering wound (4)
- 26 Dutch name of The Hague (4)
- 27 Daughter in law of Naomi (4)
- 29 Frighteningly grey (5)

- 30 Bluish white metallic element (4)
- 31 One of the cities destroyed by God near the Dead Sea (5)
- 34 Capital of Crete (5)
- 35 Japanese sash (3)
- 37 Single things (5)
- 39 Chinese Communist leader (9)
- 40 The first woman and wife of Adam (3)
- 41 One of the twelve books of the Minor Prophets (4)
- 42 Pertaining to the duodenum (8)

DOWN

- 2 State of the NE United States (11)
- 3 Tending to change (7)
- 4 Fruit in ready order (4)
- 5 Glide along smoothly (5)
- 6 The younger son of Isaac (5)
- 7 Tool for making holes in leather (3)
- 8 Where was Jonah travelling to when he was swallowed by the great fish (8)
- 10 Who was murdered by his

June's Solution

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| ACROSS | 39 non |
| 1 tacit | 40 aisle |
| 4 Nod | |
| 6 Seth | DOWN |
| 8 AMU | |
| 10 Solomon | 1 testament |
| 11 Sarai | 2 culmination |
| 12 era | 3 tempest |
| 13 abide | 4 Nineveh |
| 14 natal | 5 Daleth |
| 16 Stephen | 6 Susanna |
| 19 enact | 7 tar |
| 20 hi | 9 bill |
| 21 vacant | 15 Thanatopsis |
| 24 Taiwan | 17 Pi |
| 26 OK | 18 Eve |
| 28 again | 22 Tennessee |
| 29 Bigfoot | 23 ani |
| 31 Sinai | 25 Abigail |
| 32 leone | 26 of |
| 33 gas | 27 Kosygin |
| 34 ultra | 28 Atlanta |
| 36 Genesis | 30 Goshen |
| 37 ice | 31 Saul |
| 38 Joel | 35 two |

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) Family Service (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
11.15 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</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 <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, Fr John and Mark have Monday. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and two out of three 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@care4free.net

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
Pat Chung
Tel: 767124

HALL BOOKINGS

OFFICER:
773620

weekdays only