



Christ the King  
St James the Great  
St John the Divine

April  
2024

# Shirley Parish Magazine



**You abundantly water the ploughed fields,  
You settle  
its furrows and soften the earth  
with showers. You bless its growth. Ps 65:10**

# SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

CLERGY

## Reverend Paul Day

email: vicar@shirleyparishb90.co.uk

Tel: 0121 537 9672

## Reverend Richard Haynes

email: curate@shirleyparishb90.co.uk

Tel: 07972 530161

## Reverend Wendy Martin

email: associatepriest@shirleyparishb90.co.uk

Tel: 07543 829571

## Reverend Wendy Carter

email: revwendy@sky.com

Tel: 0121 744 6315

## Reverend Dr. Theresa Jones

email: theresaj1@btinternet.com

Tel: 0121 272 3366

## Parish Office, Church House, Church Road, Shirley, B90 2AX

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Telephone: 0121 745 8896

Email: office@shirleyparishb90.co.uk

Parish Website: <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk>

Social Media: [twitter.com/@ParishB90](https://twitter.com/ParishB90)

[facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90](https://facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@shirleyparish5736>

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4904334906>



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**ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX**

**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, Widney Junior School, Clifton Crescent, Solihull B91 3LQ**

**ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW**

**FOR ANY ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE PLEASE CONTACT  
THE PARISH OFFICE OR THE EDITOR -**

**Gill Hanton - Telephone : 0121 733 2347 or 07973 942145**

**Email : shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com**

***Deadline for information and articles for next month's magazine: 12th of the month***

*Whilst every care is taken to ensure that the contents of the magazine are correct, the Parish cannot be responsible for any errors that may occur in the editorial or advertisements, nor for the actions of the advertisers.*

**Registered Charity number 1131912**

## OUR SERVICES IN APRIL

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Thursday 4th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 7th	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
	3.30pm	Reflective Worship	St James Church
Thursday 11th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 14th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church
Thursday 18th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 20th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 21st	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Thursday 25th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 28th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Worship 4 Everyone	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church

**PLEASE CHECK FOR ANY CHANGES ON THE WEEKLY NOTICE SHEET, SOCIAL MEDIA  
OR ON OUR WEBSITE <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk>**

## THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

**Congratulations to the March winners**

£50 ~ Doug Golightly    £25 ~ Jan Dalton



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Wednesday & Friday No Experience Necessary as Tuition Given  
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**COME AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

## THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME

This time of year our Treasurer, Ian Longbottom, is busy collating the church accounts which have to be approved by the PCC (Church Council) and sent to the Charity Commissioners. For 2023 it looks like our routine income (that is income not earmarked for specific projects like the Pod Project) will be slightly less than our routine expenditure.

Consequently, you might be expecting me to start encouraging people to give more to the church so that this situation doesn't continue. And while it is true that I would love us all to be more generous as a response to the generosity of God and as this could help us achieve more as a Parish, I just wanted us to think for a moment about the ways we give to the church.

The traditional way of giving is through cash on the plate in church, perhaps using the planned giving envelopes which are dated for each Sunday. But of course, cash given in this way has to be counted and banked which takes time (and as they say time is money). Additionally, if we use the envelope scheme, envelopes need to be opened and amounts given individually recorded so that we can reclaim any gift aid that is applicable. This is a time-consuming task, as you can imagine.



Even if we give by monthly or annual bank standing order, there has to be a detailed process to record individual donations so that any gift aid can be reclaimed.

But there is another way!

The Parish Giving Scheme has been set up by the Church of England to make giving easy and efficient. It essentially uses the Direct Debit method to make transfers from your bank account to the church account. But the real beauty of the scheme is that gift aid is reclaimed on a monthly basis by the scheme and paid directly to the Parish at no cost or effort to us. This saves hours of time in the Parish Office as administering gift aid is a complex, detailed and lengthy task.

I know that many people in the Parish use the scheme already but, if you don't, can I encourage you to do so. Direct debits are very safe and are all covered by the banks' direct debit guarantee scheme which means only what you have agreed will be taken from your bank account.

Setting it up is very simple and can be done over the phone. It takes just 5-10 minutes.

Just call 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm. You will need your bank account details and the name and code of your church. For the churches in our Parish these are:

Christ the King: Code 020 602 220

St James the Great: Code 020 602 173

St John the Divine: Code 020 602 174

Alternatively, you can do it on the internet – just go to the giving page of the Shirley Parish website <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/giving>

If you would like to have a chat about this please contact the Parish Office or speak to me or Ian directly. You can also find out more at <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home>.

Can I thank you all for your generosity, whichever way you give!

*Reverend Paul Day*



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# Mothers' UNION

## Christian care for families

### Diocese of Birmingham

Linda Pitt welcomed all to our March meeting and commenced with prayers.

Linda introduced our speaker Jo Roberts-Hill for her talk on “Finn’s Story.” Finn is the son of Jo and Paul and was born in 2012. He was a healthy little boy until the age of 4½ years when he complained of not feeling well. His doctor thought it was a virus with the symptoms he was displaying. With no improvement Finn was referred to Worcester Royal Hospital for possible glandular fever. Worcester Royal also felt that it was a virus but did take an MRI scan of his brain. Within a very short time Jo received a call from Birmingham Children’s Hospital asking her to bring Finn into them immediately as they suspected Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM). Finn responded to steroid treatment in the short term. It was then thought he may have Clippers Disease but that proved to be a red herring as he was eventually diagnosed with Haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH). HLH is a rare immune disorder where the body reacts falsely to a ‘trigger’, usually an infection, it can be difficult to diagnose because many of the symptoms can mimic severe infection or other conditions. Finn needed a stem cell transplant to replace his faulty immune system with an immune system from a healthy donor. He was on the register and a 9/10 match was found for him with the donor living in Brazil. In 2019 after preparation/isolation in hospital Finn received the donation, which was a success. In 2022 Finn began to show symptoms of not being well again, sadly the transplant was failing so the search was on again for another donor on the register. This time another donor from Portugal was found with a 10/10 match and all is going well for Finn. He has now started secondary school and leading a normal life.

Finn and his parents have appeared on ITV’s ‘This Morning’ show to promote stem cell transplants and urged people to sign up on the donor register. Whilst on the show, unaware to them, ITV had arranged for them to meet the first donor from Brazil in person.

Finn has received the Young Heros Award.

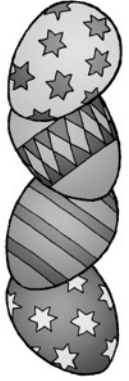
Jo spoke from the heart with such emotion on Finn’s illness and she concluded by saying the “kindness of strangers”.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday 3rd April** at 2pm in Church House will be an Easter social.

All our meetings are held in Church House at 2pm on the first Wednesday in the month except for the August meeting.

**Visitors are most welcome to any of our meetings.**

*Susan Knight*



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Sunday 10am - 4pm

## ADAVU, FOOD BANK & GROWBABY - UPDATES

**ADAVU:** last month I wrote about trafficking. A recent case involves “Ben”, a survivor of labour exploitation and torture. He was referred to Liisa’s team, homeless and sofa surfing with his wife and newborn baby. Liaising with Children’s Services and a specialist homeless charity temporary accommodation was found for them. They are now safely housed, baby is thriving, and Ben’s mental health is being closely monitored by a G.P.

Did you see a recent docudrama (true story) where a girl (studying to be a nurse) was kidnapped from a London street under threats to her parents in her native country, finally escaped after horrendous abuse/torture, and gave evidence to the UK Parliamentary Committee contributing to the Trafficking and Modern Slavery Bill – a very brave woman.

Recently someone told me that she didn’t want to hear or read about such cases, they upset her too much. I’m sorry if you feel that way and have been upset – I happen to think that we need to know more about the charity which we support so caringly.

**FOOD BANK:** sadly the numbers of users continue to rise, stretching donated supplies rather thinly. “Every tin matters” was a slogan used ten years ago - it still does!

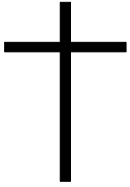
**GrowBaby:** continues to help from St Michael’s Church in Redstone Farm Road, Hall Green. It offers clothing, toys, baby food and equipment from maternity to 5 year old children. They are always short of the larger size clothing - 4 and 5 year olds, both girls and boys. Please ask around and see what you can scrounge ...

Many thanks, *Elizabeth Paice*

P.S. The Pantry food scheme has opened at St John’s, Sparkhill. More about this next month.







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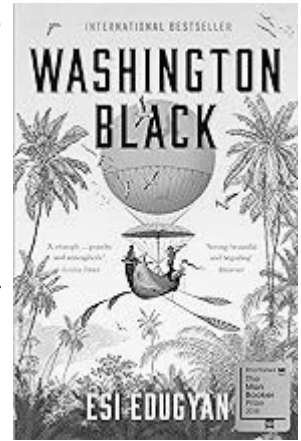
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## SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

### 'Washington Black' by Esi Edugyan

We came to this novel mainly because of its rather distinguished history as a nominee for a couple of the big 2018 literary prizes - Booker and New York Times best books. We stayed with it, perhaps, because of its rather old-fashioned plot. It's what might be classed as a 'picaresque' novel, an individual's long journey to lots of places and people and discovering himself in the process.

The novel begins in 1830s Barbados on a sugar plantation called Faith. George Washington Black is a very young slave cared for by an older woman called Big Kit. He becomes the slave plantation owner's brother's assistant - Christopher 'Titch' Wilde - who is trying to become an inventor, scientist and explorer. In this role, through his intelligence, sensibility and imagination, Washington reveals himself as a natural artist.



He travels to Canada, the Arctic, London and finally Morocco, first with Titch, then alone. Washington, through his travels and experiences, becomes a scientist and an artist.

Our readers, as ever, had various responses to the novel. They found it powerful, entertaining, authentic and well written. At the same time, for some it was far-fetched. Nevertheless, 'Washington Black' is more than what might be described as historical fiction.



It's about belonging and the search for a home. Some of us were drawn to it because it has elements of the 19th century adventure stories we were brought up on. This is one of those books where we are drawn in thinking it is one thing, then discover other things. As David Foenkinos says (in his novel, 'Charlotte'):

"The book we are looking for is not necessarily the one we should read. We should look at the one next to it."

The next book for us to lose ourselves in is just the ticket - **'The Lost Bookshop' by Evie Woods**. Read it! You won't regret it.

*Ray Speakman*



You will have read Chris Terry's magazine article about the horrors of plastic waste in last month's magazine and our duty to do what we can to reduce the use of single use plastics in our own households.

You will also have seen Kate Crocker's notice in the early March pew slip about the Big Plastic Count week (11th to 17th March). We thank those of you who agreed to take part.

Our counts have been posted to Greenpeace and the results of the National Survey will be with us soon.

Watch this space for the findings!

*Chris Speakman*



## OUR WALL OF POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE TIME IN NOVEMBER

I am pleased to announce that nearly 1000 poppies have been knitted so far.

Unfortunately we still need at least another 2000!

Please carry on knitting or crocheting and, if you cannot do either, donations of red double knitting wool will be gratefully received.

Thank you, *Linda Pitt*

Open every Tuesday

10.00 am – 11.30 am

# Welcome Café

Pop in for a cuppa or stay longer for a chat.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Church House  
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Shirley B90 2AX



*Come and join us for a*

# QUINGO EVENING

(An exciting mix of quiz and bingo!)

**Saturday 27th April 2024**

**7.30pm**

**in Church House**

**Entrance fee £7 -  
including a buffet  
supper (bring your  
own drinks)**

*Please let the Parish  
Office or Gill Gough know  
in advance if you are  
hoping to come*

## EMMAUS

*(Luke 24:13-32)*

In the breaking of the bread  
Our eyes were opened,  
We knew Him then.  
The Lord was with us  
In Emmaus,  
There was no doubt.  
He was alive and with us,  
The scriptures made sense.  
What a difference!

But thinking back  
To that journey –  
To the grief that overwhelmed us,  
The discussions, disagreements  
And debilitating disappointment –  
A different opening of the eyes,  
We never *were* alone.

Before the word and bread,  
Because of the word and bread  
He was there,  
He is here,  
Always,  
Walking with us.

*By Daphne Kitching*



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## THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

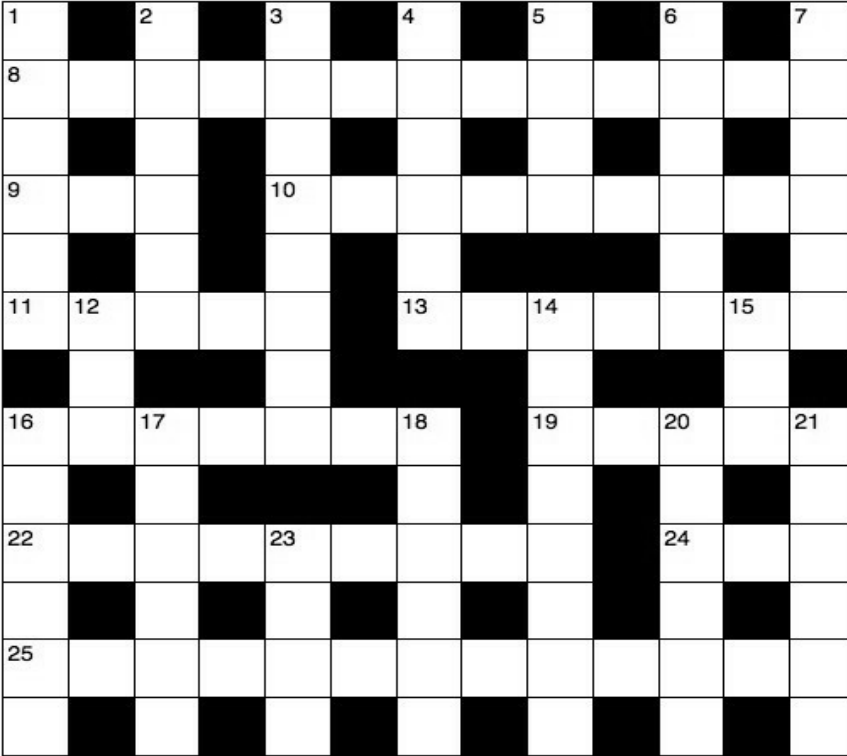
### ACROSS

- 8** 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — '  
(Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9** 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives  
(Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10** Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)
- 11** 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13** Muslim holy month (7)
- 16** Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19** Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22** How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24** 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25** Debar from receiving Communion (13)

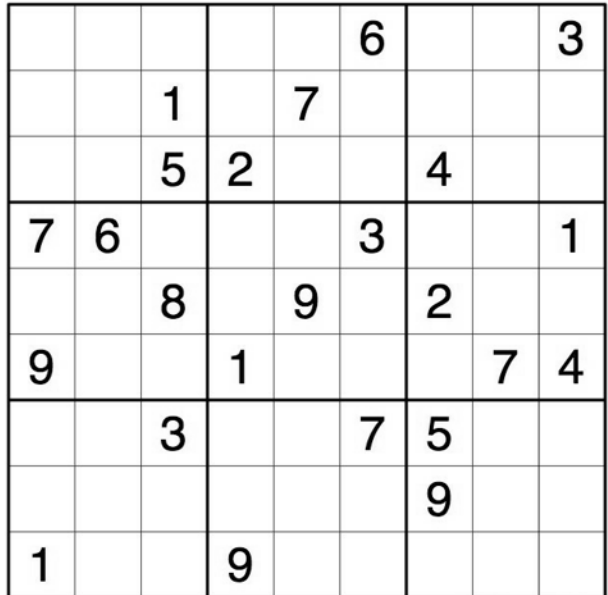
### DOWN

- 1** My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2** Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3** 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4** 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5** Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6** 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over'  
(Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7** 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12** Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14** Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15** Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16** I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17** 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18** 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?'  
(Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20** Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21** 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?'  
(James 4:4) (6)
- 23** Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

# THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



Answers are on page 19



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## WORDSEARCH - ST GEORGE

St George is Patron Saint of England, but he never actually came here. He was a Christian officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror. George was therefore martyred in Palestine about 300 AD. His courage became legendary, and St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages.



In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine tells the story of how St George helped rescue the people of Sylene in Lybia from a dragon, especially the princess, who had been offered to the dragon as a sacrifice. With the dragon dead, and the princess returned to her father the King, the people of Sylene converted to Christianity.

E	G	E	N	L	E	G	E	N	D	S	N	N
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ARMY  
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 DIOCLETIAN  
 DRAGON  
 ENGLAND  
 EVIL  
 EXAMPLE  
 GEORGE  
 GOLDEN  
 HELPER  
 HERO  
 LEGEND  
 MARTYRED  
 OFFICER  
 PALESTINE  
 PATRON  
 PRINCESS  
 ROMAN  
 SAINT  
 SOLDIER  
 TERROR

Answers are on page 19



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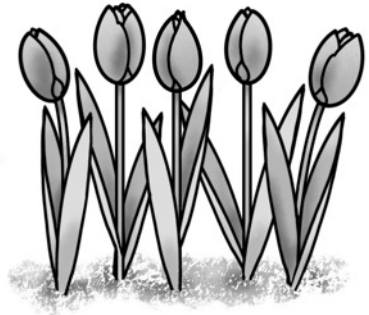


**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

2	7	9	4	8	6	1	5	3
4	8	1	3	7	5	6	2	9
6	3	5	2	1	9	4	8	7
7	6	4	5	2	3	8	9	1
3	1	8	7	9	4	2	6	5
9	5	2	1	6	8	3	7	4
8	9	3	6	4	7	5	1	2
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U	P					I	A	R	A
C	H	I	L	D	L	E	S	A	N
L	E	O	D	T	R	R			
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I	E	E	P	C	T	D			

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R	G	C	A	E	P	L	R	R	Y	E	H	E
E	O	I	A	I	E	P	O	M	E	E	D	
I	E	U	T	V	R	R	M	M	R	S	E	L
D	A	R	E	C	I	F	F	O	A	R	I	O
L	O	A	L	N	G	D	M	I	Y	X	E	G
N	L	G	C	E	I	R	N	T	L	L	E	T
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S	G	D	D	N	M	N	H	E	L	P	E	R
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S	R	O	E	L	R	L	I	L	E	D	P	O



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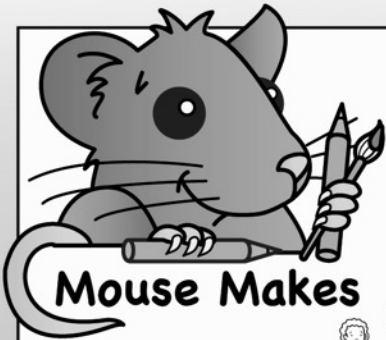
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**or 07966 275134 (Dan)**



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# Mouse Makes

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.



He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



**READ**

the story in **John 21**



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

## THE TREASURE OF EASTER

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

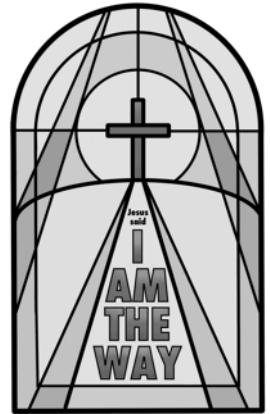
The Apostle Peter reminds us that God *'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.'* (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it *'is kept in heaven for you'* (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: *'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now'*.

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us *'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'* (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, *'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.'* (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

*'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof'!*



## PRAY WITH US

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,  
 send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
 wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.  
 Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,  
 and in service to our local community.  
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

# SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE *continued*

## READERS

**Kate Day**

email: kate\_day@me.com

Tel: 0121 537 9672

**Gill Gough**

email: g.gough@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0121 603 2636

**Sarah Penfold**

email: sarahpenfold@blueyonder.co.uk

Tel: 0121 681 1525

**Denise Smith**

email: deesmith1181@hotmail.com

Tel: 07815 193892

## CHURCH WARDENS

**Parish Wardens**

Linda Pitt Tel: 0121 744 6777  
email: lindaalisonpitt@gmail.com

Gill Hanton Tel: 0121 733 2347  
email: gill.hanton@btinternet.com

**Deputy Wardens - St James the Great Church**

Kate Crocker John Richards  
Tel: 07562 664163 Tel: 07941 634971

**Deputy Warden - Christ the King Church**

Denise Smith  
Tel: 07815 193892

**Deputy Warden - St John the Divine Church**

Linda Alford  
Tel: 0121 430 4785

## SAFEGUARDING

Sue Harries  
Tel: 07977 012753 or 0121 745 8896 (c/o Parish Office)

***As you all know we are a parish that takes safeguarding very seriously.  
Everyone who comes to our churches deserves to feel included and  
very importantly, safe.***

***If anything is concerning you, please talk to Sue Harries, Safeguarding Co-ordinator,  
or Paul Day, Vicar.***

***We must all look after one another.***

*Copies of the sermons preached at our services can be found on our website -  
<https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/download-a-sermon>*

## PARISH FUNERAL - FEBRUARY 2024

9th - Alan Robinson





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