



28th December – 4th January

Christmas 1

The Parish of Shirley

St James the Great and St John the Divine

The Parish Office

Church House, Church Road,

Shirley, B90 2AX

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Sun 28th	9am	Patronal Eucharist (St Johns)
	10.30am	Eucharist (St James) First Sunday of Christmas
Mon 29th	8pm	Compline
Tues 30th	10.00am	Welcome Café (Church House)
	11.30am	Craft Club (Church House)
Sun 4th	10.30am	Eucharist (St James) -Epiphany Sunday
	12.30pm	Baptism (St James)
	3.30pm	Reflective Worship (St James)

Parish Notices

Office Closure Please note that the office is currently closed until 5th January 2026. Thank you for your support and patience over the festive period, it really is appreciated.

Annual Leave – Rev'd Richard Haynes

Please note that Richard will be on annual leave following the Christmas morning service, returning on Saturday 3 January 2026

Christmas Tree Festival – Thank you to everyone that participated in and visited our festival. The ‘favourite tree’ vote was won by the Mothers’ Union, the Fairtrade hampers were won by Pat Coward and Wendy Carter. £100 has been donated to the Open Doors charity.

Coffee Morning & Unloved Gift Swap – Monday 12th January at 10.30am at St John’s Church. All welcome!

Mothers Union There will be no meeting in January. However, there will be the Wave of Prayer. More details of this will follow. Our next meeting will be on 4th February 2026 which will be our AGM.

Bible Study Morning – Matthew’s Gospel Saturday 10 January 10am

All are welcome to a Bible Study on Matthew’s Gospel (the main Gospel in use for this liturgical year) which will be in Church House on Saturday 10 January. This will be a time to consider some of the questions that surround ‘Matthew’ and explore some of the Gospel’s themes. Please bring an actual Bible along – some will be available on the day. We plan to start at 10am and finish around 11:30am Rev'd Richard Haynes

Vicar – in vacancy

Contact the Parish Office

Rev Richard Haynes - Curate

0797 253 0161

curate@shirleyparishb90.co.uk

(Rest Day is Friday)

FOR PRAYER

For those struggling with housing, finances and health.

For rest and restoration for all who are taking a break; and for energy and strength for those for whom this time is busy and challenging.

YEARS MIND

THOSE TO BE BAPTISED

Tania West, Ella-Rose Powell & Archie Powell

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Cheryl Yvonne Morton & John Howard Smith

Collect for 28th December 2025

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in
your own image
and yet more wonderfully
restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in
our humanity,
so we may share the life of his
divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever
Amen

Donations During Services

+ We do not pass an offertory plate around the congregation during our services. You can donate using the Parish Giving Scheme for regular donations or for one-off donations by using the Sum Up machine or the collecting plate at the back of the church. Thank you for your support +

Isaiah 63: 7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, ‘Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely’; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hebrews 2: 10-end

It was only right that God, who creates and preserves all things, should make Jesus perfect through suffering, in order to bring many children to share his glory. For Jesus is the one who leads them to salvation. He purifies people from their sins, and both he and those who are made pure all have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his family. He says to God,

“I will tell my people what you have done;

I will praise you in their meeting.”

He also says, “I will put my trust in God.” And he also says, “Here I am with the children that God has given me.” Since the children, as he calls them, are people of flesh and blood, Jesus himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death he might destroy the Devil, who has the power over death, and in this way set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death. For it is clear that it is not the angels that he helps. Instead, he helps the descendants of Abraham. This means that he had to become like his people in every way, in order to be their faithful and merciful High Priest in his service to God, so that the people's sins would be forgiven. And now he can help those who are tempted, because he himself was tempted and suffered.

Matthew 2: 13-end

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’