

SHIRLEY PARISH



A PRAYER FOR THE PARISH

Give to us your people, living God,
A renewed faith and a bold vision
that we may proclaim
the Good News of your Son
with faith that your kingdom will come,
with hope for our community
and with love for Him
who died and rose again
to save us, Jesus Christ our Risen Lord
Amen



A REMINDER OF OUR NEW WORSHIP PATTERN

	St John's Church at 9am	St James Church at 10am	Christ the King Church at 10.30am
1st Sunday	Joint Eucharist (venue alternates with CTK)	Choral Eucharist	Joint Eucharist (venue alternates with St John's)
2nd Sunday	Eucharist	Morning Worship	Eucharist
3rd Sunday	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist
4th Sunday	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Worship
5th Sunday*	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist

**See pages 2 & 22*

NEWS FROM OUR VICAR

Those who were able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting at the end of April were in a celebratory mood and made the most of the opportunity to look back over a year of real progress in a number of areas. The occasion was a vindication of the efforts of so many people working so hard to ensure that the worship and witness of Shirley Parish doesn't just continue but goes from strength to strength.

We were able to give thanks for the work of the Wardens over the year. Linda Alford, Sue Barnard, Margaret Foreshew, Linda Pitt, Graham and Denise Smith have all worked tirelessly to ensure that the lives of the three churches in our parish continue to thrive and to engage with the many challenges that inspire us. As Parish Warden, Kate Crocker demonstrated amply her many talents, not least of which is a gift for making sense of diocesan forms! I am delighted to say that all these people have agreed to continue for another year, though in the case of Margaret and Kate they have exchanged roles: Kate is now a Warden at St James's, while Margaret is now a Parish Warden. In this she is joined by Gill Hanton, who has agreed to add the role of Parish Warden to her work as magazine editor.

There are many many others across the parish who do so much to witness to Christ through faithful worship, devoted prayer and sheer hard work in making sure that our places of worship are a delight to behold and an inspiration in which to give thanks to God through his Son Jesus Christ.

I am delighted to announce, therefore, that it has been agreed that the last Sunday in June, a fifth Sunday, is going to be observed as **Thanksgiving Sunday**. There will be a **Songs of Praise service at St James's at 10am** at which we will come together and give thanks to God for all that goes on in the parish and for the people who make it happen - **YOU!**

I am also delighted to announce that **Bishop David** will be presiding and preaching at **St James's Patronal Festival on the 28th July**. This will be another opportunity to give thanks and to do so with our Bishop. The worship will be followed by a **Parish Bring and Share Lunch**. Look out for further details, but please make a note of these dates.



NEWS FROM OUR VICAR *continued*

In the words of Paul's letter to the Colossians:

Let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts, since
as members of one body
you were called to peace.
And be thankful.
Colossians 3:15



Reverend Peter Law-Jones

WEEKLY PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH

We continue to meet at 8.30am on Saturday mornings to pray for the Parish.
The dates and venues for the first part of June are as follows -

Saturday 1st June - St James Church (part of 'Thy Kingdom Come')

Saturday 8th June - St John's Church (part of 'Thy Kingdom Come')

Saturday 15th June - St James Church (prior to Messy Church)

Please see the pewslip for further details.

***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***

NEWS FROM ONE OF OUR READERS

Looking back over the last few months I have been enjoying some new services like sharing the alternate once a month service with St Johns and the reflective evening service too.

We had a cafe style service at Christ the King for Mothering Sunday which was a very lively affair with the school choir joining in with us for our celebration.

The new Messy Church on a Saturday morning has been very well attended and the Tuesday cafe always has something new to offer - trivia to keep your brain active or in my case make it ache, or crafts for the more artistic amongst us plus Jigsaw puzzles and games. It's a great way to make new friends and just have a coffee and a chat, you are made very welcome.



I enjoyed leading one of the parish Lent courses with Kate Day and we had many good discussions on faith and how we and our churches will look in say five to ten years' time.

I am now looking forward to the new worship pattern and find it exciting that we will have a different service once a month in each church and also the chance to participate in the Eucharist at another of the churches in the Shirley Parish if preferred.

There have also been quiz nights and coffee mornings and we are still only at the start of the sixth month! Keep reading your pew slips and this magazine for all the other things taking place in the next few months.



A friend of mine was reading this magazine and said, "Gosh what a lot of things these three churches provide, I never realised churches did so much, thought it was just Sunday services, weddings, christenings and funerals".

So please pass the magazine on when you have read it or purchase another one and offer it out to someone - you never know what they will find of interest in it or where it will lead them in future.

NEWS FROM ONE OF OUR READERS continued

The end of June will see us have a thanksgiving songs of praise service at St James Church and in July it's St James patronal service with a visit from the Bishop.

We are going to be starting an Enquirers group in July and August for people who would like to explore what it means to be a Christian. So please watch out for details of this and invite a friend, neighbour, cousin or a work colleague who may be interested.

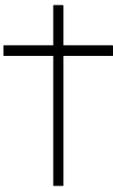
With my love and prayers, Denise Smith

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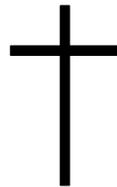
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GIVING TO CHRISTIAN MISSION

As Christians we are encouraged to be generous with what God has entrusted to us. Many regularly plan to give a certain percentage of our income away – either through the church or to other charities or Christian mission organisations. This is a tradition and teaching dating back to the Old Testament where the Israelites were taught to give back to God a tenth (known as the tithe). We may not all use the 10% guideline, but such generosity is a well established part of the Christian way of life.

Some churches follow a similar example in giving away a percentage of the money that is given to them. Our PCC have recently decided that from this year the church in Shirley Parish will commit to giving 2% of its stewardship income and plate offerings to Christian mission outside of the Parish. This could mean supporting churches or mission within Birmingham, further afield in the UK or across the world.



The PCC is seeking suggestions as to whom we might support financially from this amount. In doing so we would ideally want the financial support to go hand in hand with prayer and, where possible, practical support. We are looking to build on existing links that church members have.

So if you have any suggestions, or if you already have links with a mission organisation, or if you know someone who is involved with one, please let Peter or myself know so we can take the name of the organisation to a future PCC meeting. We hope this initiative will generate in the Parish a real interest and concern for worldwide mission.

Reverend Paul Day

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NEWS FROM THE FOODBANK



Sometimes when we arrive on Wednesdays, we are lucky enough to find quantities of newly donated items requiring to be dated and sorted. Sometimes we find gaps on the shelves of made-up parcels in particular categories, in which case we set to and make up what is required. Care is taken with the packing to ensure that nothing gets damaged or squashed, so tins and jars at the bottom and packets of crisps and packets of cereal at the top! This also makes the carrier bags less likely to topple over if the person carrying them needs to put them down and have a rest. We do try to split the weight fairly evenly between the bags, and of course the strong supermarket bags are vitally important as any others are too flimsy. The parcels are then weighed, so that a record can be kept of the overall food issued.

Stocks are looking rather low at present, so your donations are even more welcome than usual. This provided the opportunity recently, with the help of a group of volunteers from HS2, for the stocks to be checked to ensure they were in date order. The last thing we want is for any of the items so kindly donated to go to waste.

I have mentioned that we do get donations which are out of date, but these are not wasted – unless they are so old that they go into the museum, where we have tins dating back well before 2010. We recently unpacked an out of date tin of pears, which was bulging at both ends. We put that, very gingerly, straight into the bin! However, anything which is only a little out of date, or which might still be fit for consumption, is passed on to the Real Junk Food Project, where it will be used if at all possible, in one of their centres. For more information have a look at their website - <https://trjfpbrum.com>.



Margaret Barber

JULY & AUGUST 2019 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Wednesday 12th June

PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 29th June

PRETTY BOXES NEEDED PLEASE ...

I am on the hunt for some pretty boxes which could be made into dolls' beds.

They would need to be at least shoe/trainer box size without any obvious advertising on them.

Till now David has been covering shoe boxes with fancy paper but it tends to tear after very little use. The whole idea is to give a doll with some bedding in a box (plus spare clothing, toiletries, small books etc.) to make it more of a play unit - rather than just give a doll by itself.



I am often told that I am always 'On the Scrounge' but it's very satisfying when we can fulfil a request from Carol at the Narthex and give some pleasure to a traumatised Little One and you so often come up trumps!

Thanks, Elizabeth Paice

SIGNS & SYMBOLS:

EUCHARIST, COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

What do you call the church service where Jesus' last meal with His apostles is re-enacted? And does it matter what we call it?

The word 'Eucharist' comes from the Greek word *eucharistia*, which is itself a translation of the Hebrew word *berekah*. All three words have the meaning of thanksgiving, or praise for the wonderful works of God. So, we are giving thanks for all that God has done for us and all that Jesus has achieved through His life, death and resurrection.

'Communion', according to the Cambridge dictionary, has the meaning of being in a close relationship with someone in which feelings and thoughts are exchanged. So, at Communion we are together with Christ and with each other.

The term 'The Lord's Table' refers to recalling the last meal that Jesus ate with His apostles, and doing so in remembrance of Him.

SIGNS & SYMBOLS *continued*

There is a lovely invitation which is sometimes used to invite people to come forward to receive the bread and wine which goes along these lines:

Come to this table,
not because you must but because you may,
Come, when you are fearful, doubtful or in need;
to be held by the God who made you and loves you.
It is the table of company with Jesus,
and all who love him.
It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.



Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet Him here.

What's important is not so much what we call this act of worship but rather our attitude in accepting this invitation from the Lord Himself.

Come.

Reverend Dr Jo White

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Birmingham

On Thursday 16th May I went to a Mothers' Union meeting for the first time!
And what a warm welcome I received!
The speaker at the meeting was Reverend Paul Nash, Senior Chaplain at Birmingham Children's Hospital and he shared some amazing stories.
The next meeting is on Wednesday 5th June where everyone will be 'Singing for Pleasure' led by Phil Kew - always a popular and enjoyable time so why not go along and join in?!

Gill Hanton

THE BEATITUDES : ‘BLESSED ARE THE MEEK’

Jesus calls those who live for His kingdom to demonstrate His character: *‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.’* (Matthew Chapter 5 verse 5).

Meekness can come over as being *‘weak or feeble’*, hence *‘Gentle Jesus, meek and mild.’* However, the Greek word means being *tamed: ‘Blessed are those who are tamed, under control.’* The picture is that of a horse brought under control: strength under submission. Meekness begins with an honest view of ourselves, where we don’t have to worry about what others think of us, but trust in what God is able to do in us.

Moses is described as *‘very meek, more than all men that were on the face of the earth’* (Numbers Chapter 12 verse 3, RSV). Moses was certainly not a weak leader, but he submitted to God’s plans for his life. Meekness accepts what comes, even if it hurts, knowing that it’s for our good.

A meek person will tame themselves to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who shows us how to respond in any situation practically and prayerfully. It means being careful about how we respond to those who provoke us by not being angry or striking out. When we encounter difficult situations or people who wind us up, how are we prepared to pray before speaking? We should not be out of control, but under God’s control!

Let’s not forget the promise of this beatitude, that the meek person will *‘inherit the earth.’* Those who are prepared to let go their rights in this world, will be made infinitely rich in the future.

‘The meek man knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto.’ (AW Tozer).

Reverend Paul Hardingham

A NEW SONG FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION

Singers of all kinds will have a new song to sing this autumn – a ‘Song for the Season of Creation’ (1st September – 4th October).

It was commissioned by the Church of England’s Environment Working Group, which hopes that in churches across the country “we can get a large number singing on Sunday 1st September to launch the season. Others may use prefer to sing the song at other times – during harvest services for example.”

A NEW SONG continued

Malcolm Guite's words have been set to music by Ian Stephens in a number of arrangements suitable for choirs and singing groups of all ages, ranges and sizes all of which fit together and can be performed simultaneously. There is also an arrangement for congregations.

The six arrangements are available as a free download from <http://www.stbrides.com/creation> so that all potential performers will have it available to rehearse before September.

Director of the Royal School of Church Music, Hugh Morris, said "Using music to celebrate the richness of God's creation is something all churches can do, and this new Song for the Season of Creation offers an open, flexible way of resourcing and encouraging churches to lift up their voices in praise".

Here is the new song:

Everything Holds Together ***Based on Colossians Chapter 1 verses 15-17***

Everything holds together, everything,
 From stars that pierce the dark like living sparks,
 To secret seeds that open every spring,
 From spanning galaxies to spinning quarks,
 Everything holds together and coheres,
 Unfolding from the centre whence it came.
 And now that hidden heart of things appears,
 The first-born of creation takes a name.

And shall I see the one through whom I am?
 Shall I behold the one for whom I'm made,
 The light in light, the flame within the flame,
Eikon tou theou, image of my God?
 He comes, a little child, to bless my sight,
 That I might come to him for life and light.



SEASON OF CREATION

See also -

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>



THY KINGDOM COME

Thursday 30th May to Sunday 9th June

Along with many other Churches and Christians around the world, Shirley Parish is setting aside the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost to pray that more people may come to know the love of God in Jesus, and that they will join us in worshipping him.

We've pulled together a variety of different ways of getting involved, and hope that everyone who thinks of themselves as belonging to Shirley Parish will join in with at least one of these activities. Have a look and see what you fancy having a go at – even if this is an unfamiliar concept to you, we hope you will give something a try!

Daily prayer leaflet: We will be producing a prayer leaflet with prayers for each day in the Thy Kingdom Come period. Each day we will be considering one of the activities run in the Parish which reach out into the community, asking for God's guidance and blessing, and praying that more people will become involved. We'll also pray for some areas where we don't currently have any provision, asking for God's inspiration and lead.

Please take a leaflet and commit to spending (an extra) two or three minutes per day talking and listening to God about how we engage with our friends and neighbours.

Prayers in St James Church: We will be setting up specific prayer points around St James relating to these areas and activities, together with a leaflet to guide people round them. Some will be purely for personal prayer, others may have activities for people to do if they wish.

Please consider spending half an hour praying the stations in St James during the Thy Kingdom Come period.

THY KINGDOM COME 2019

Ascension Day Services at St James Church and St John's Church: We will be launching the Thy Kingdom Come prayers during the Ascension Day services at St James' at 10.30am and St John's at 7.30pm on Thursday 30th May.

Please join us to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, and to committing ourselves to prayer over the ten days of Thy Kingdom Come.

Prayer Walk from Christ the King: Denise and Kate will be leading a prayer walk around Cranmore, starting from Christ the King at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th June, and finishing at 18 Widney Lane with tea and buns.

Please join us as we walk round this part of the parish, asking for God's blessing on those who live and work there.

Saturday Prayers: Everyone is always welcome to join in prayer for growth at 8.30am - 9am on Saturday mornings.

Please consider making a special decision to join the prayers on Saturday 1st at St James and/or Saturday 8th June, at St John's. It's a very informal group, and there is no expectation that people will pray aloud, unless they wish to.

In addition, prayers in all our regular services between Ascension and Pentecost will be focusing on Thy Kingdom Come.

You can find out more by keeping an eye on the Church pew slip.

We will also post information on the Shirley Parish website

<https://shirleyparishb90.wixsite.com/live>

and on the Facebook Page and Group.

Alternatively, please speak to Kate or Paul Day (0121 537 9672).

Please do get involved.

*And may God's Kingdom Come, God's will be done,
In Shirley as it is in heaven.*



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'PENTECOST IN THE PARK'



Picnic

On Pentecost Sunday (9th June) members of all the churches in Shirley are gathering in Shirley Park for an informal celebration. There will be activities for all ages, including a performance from the Uplifted Puppets who starred at the Christ the King Carol Service last Christmas.

Bring your packed lunch and enjoy eating it in the company of others – it will be good opportunity to get to know those who worship at other churches in Shirley. Why not bring your family and friends too? It all starts at 12 noon – and will be finished between 1.30pm and 2pm.

Please note that on this Sunday the morning service at St James Church will be at 10.30am so that folk can move directly to the Park.



PENTECOST - SUNDAY 9th JUNE

We used to call it Whitsun - White Sunday because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we've even changed its name. It's now 'Pentecost', which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is a celebrated fifty days after Easter. On the year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3000 people believed and were baptized in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.



I realise many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.

Canon David Winter



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Snooker table

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OUR PARISH DIARY FOR JUNE 2019

- 1st 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church
- 2nd THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
 10.30am: Christ the King and St John's Joint Service at Widney School
 7pm: Reflective Evening Worship at St John's Church
- 3rd 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion
- 4th 11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion
 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
 7.30pm: Prayer Walk from Widney Junior School
- 5th 2pm: MU – 'Singing for Pleasure' with Phil Kew at Church House
 7pm: Eucharist and Guild of St Raphael at St James Church
- 8th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St John's Church
- 9th PENTECOST**
 11.30am: The Friends of St James Walking Club
 (Meet in the Car Park near St James Church)
 12noon: Shirley Churches Together Picnic in Shirley Park
- 10th 11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion
- 11th BARNABAS THE APOSTLE
 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 12th 10.30am: Coffee Morning at St John's Church
 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
 11am: Greenhill Way Holy Communion
- 15th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church
 10am: Messy Church at Church House
 2pm: Summer Fete at St John's Church
- 16th TRINITY SUNDAY**
 1pm: The Friends of St James Light Lunch & Pudding Tasting at Church House
- 18th 10.30am: Mason House Holy Communion
 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
- 20th CORPUS CHRISTI
 3.30pm: Messy Church at Widney School
- 22nd 8.30am: Parish Prayers

OUR PARISH DIARY FOR JUNE 2019 *continued*

23rd THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

24th THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

25th 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House

26th 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion

4pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church

29th PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

8.30am: Parish Prayers

30th THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10am: Parish Thanksgiving Songs of Praise at St James Church

(Please check the weekly pew slips or the website for any changes and additions to the above)

LOOKING BACK ON D-DAY 1944

D-Day took place 75 years ago, on 6th June 1944, when over 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25th August with victory for the Allies.

It began the liberation of France – and eventually Europe – from Nazi control, and laid the foundations of victory on the Western Front. Planning for the operation involved a great deal of deception as to timing and the precise location of the landings.

The weather on D-Day was not ideal, and the operation had to be delayed 24 hours. None of the immediate goals were achieved, but a foothold was gained which the Allies expanded over the coming months. The Germans had been misled by inaccurate storm forecasts and were unprepared – with many leaders, including General Rommel, not in position.

King George VI had earlier rallied England to prayer, and on the eve of battle crowded services were held on landing craft, ships and airfields, with chaplains urging troops to put their trust in God. In America, as news of the invasion was broadcast, stores closed and prayer meetings were organised all over the country.

Museums, memorials, and war cemeteries in Normandy still welcome many visitors each year.

Tim Lenton

St John's Church, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW

COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE

10.30 AM



ALL ARE WELCOME!

We would be grateful if you could bring with you a contribution for one of the stalls at our Summer Fete on Saturday 15th June

St John's Church, Tilehouse Lane
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2pm to 4pm

Saturday 15th June

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Lost in Music

In aid of the Lily Mae Foundation

Saturday 15th June 2019
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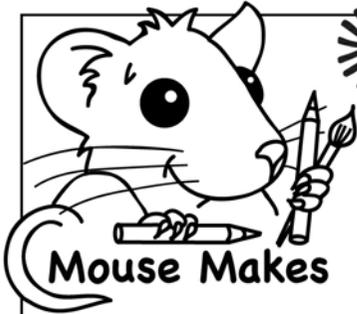
Tickets: £8 available on the door



How can God be One and Three at the same time?

Perhaps the Father is like the sun in the sky – dazzling in majesty and glory, whose light, Jesus Christ, illumines all mankind; and whose invisible warmth, the Holy Spirit, brings us to life. Sun, light and warmth – eternally the same, but eternally different. -

Anon



"May the *grace* of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST** and the *love* of **GOD** and the fellowship of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you."



2 Corinthians 13:13

A Trinity window for you to colour



The Bible teaches us that God is three persons in one:
GOD = FATHER and SON and HOLY SPIRIT



TRINITY SUNDAY - 16th JUNE

'We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Essence.' (Athanasian Creed).

On Trinity Sunday we will celebrate God as one God in three Persons. This understanding is based on how we see God at work in the world. We trust in a God who is: *'God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist; God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again and God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world'* (Church of England Baptism Service).

The Trinity provides a model for **Christian community**. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit relate together in a love relationship of mutual accountability with one another. They complement and build on the work of each other. At His baptism, Jesus the Son is obedient to His Father, who declares His approval as the Spirit anoints Jesus for ministry. *'The Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'* (Luke Chapter 3 verse 22). To what extent does the life of our church reflect this?

We also find our **mission** in the Trinity. Jesus said, *'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'* (John Chapter 20 verse 21). As the Father sent His Son into the world, so Jesus sends us out to do the Father's work, equipped by the Spirit of God. How are we called to share in God's mission ourselves?

If we live with a renewed awareness of the Trinity, our spiritual lives will deepen, our vision of God's mission will expand and take on a new vitality.



Reverend Paul Hardingham

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the next six months (June to November) are now due, £13 for six months, £26 for twelve months. Subscriptions may be handed into the Parish Office or sent to Lynda McPherson at 90 Dickens Heath Road, Shirley, B90 1RL.

If you would like to join the 100 Club please contact the Parish Office or a member of "The Friends"



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The Friends of St James The Great

invite you to a

Light Lunch & Pudding Tasting

Sunday 16th June

1pm in Church House

**Tickets available from the
Parish Office ~ £9 each**

Bring your own drink



**COME &
JOIN US
FOR**



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CELEBRATION FOR ALL AGES**
**Saturday 15th June at 10am at Church House &
Thursday 20th June at 3.30pm at Widney Junior School**

PARISH SONGS OF PRAISE - SUNDAY 30th JUNE

As part of the new pattern of worship, we are looking to all three churches worshipping together on 5th Sundays when they occur.

The next of these will be on Sunday 30th June.

A Parish Thanksgiving Songs of Praise is planned for that day.

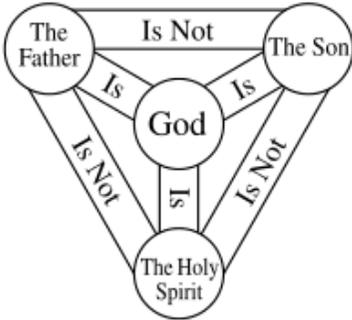
This will give us an opportunity to thank everyone who generously gives of their time in volunteering for church-based activities across the Parish.

Please watch out for more details in the pewslip.



COMING SOON ...

Over the summer we will be running an **Enquirer's course** which will give an opportunity to look at the **basics of the Christian faith**. It will be fairly informal, and participants will be given every opportunity to ask any questions that are on their minds. There will be some publicity leaflets available soon, but in the meantime please think about whether you know anyone who you feel you could invite along or, better still, bring along.



As this is the first time we are running the course, we could do with some church members to help us 'road test' it. If you think you can help do this it will also give you a chance to brush up on the basics of the faith for yourself!

So make a note of the dates – **Thursday evenings 11th, 18th, 25th July and 1st, 8th and 15th August. 7.30pm at St John's Church, Tidbury Green.**



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WORDSEARCH - ST COLUMBA - 9th JUNE

This month the Church remembers the Irish monk who first brought Christianity to Britain in around 565.

He was St Columba, and he left Ireland with twelve companions to settle on Iona, a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. For as well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts.

A prayer of St Columba runs:

My dearest Lord,

Be Thou a bright flame before me,

Be Thou a guiding star above me,

Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,

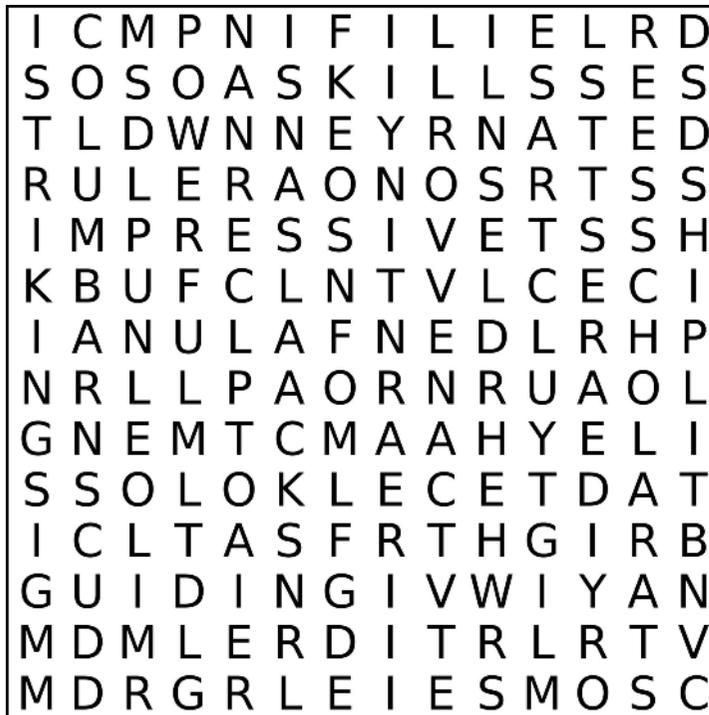
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,

Today and evermore. Amen



Answers are on page 29

BRIGHT
CHURCH
COLUMBA
COMPANIONS
CONVERTED
DEAREST
FEARLESS
FIRST
FLAME
GUIDING
IMPRESSIVE
IONA
IRELAND
ISLAND
MONASTERY
MULL
POET
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SETTLE
SKILLS
STAR
STRIKING
TALL
TINY



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Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
- 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22 Holy Communion (9)
- 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
- 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anag.) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I ... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23 Diva (anag.) (4)

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Printed by Prontaprint, Solihull : 0121 705 9988