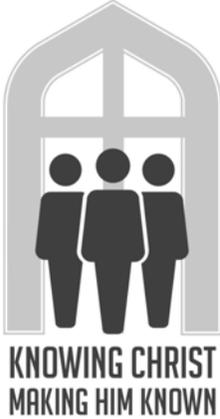


SHIRLEY PARISH

OUR PARISH PRAYER



**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**

The Friends of St James invite you to a

Coffee Morning

and Bric-a-Brac Sale with cakes, raffle, books etc.

Saturday 22nd September 2018 at 10.30am
in Church House

The Friends are now collecting Bric-a-Brac, books etc. for this event and would welcome your contributions, which may be left in the Parish Office. Also, we would welcome cakes for the cake stall on the day of the Coffee Morning, please. Don't forget to come along and support us on the day!



ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO



The beautiful baby on the front cover is called Avella and she was christened by Reverend Paul at St James Church on Sunday 24th June.

Avella's dress was made by Ellie who works in our Parish Office.

A NEW SERMON SERIES ...

This autumn we are introducing a series of sermons on some of the basics of the Christian faith, in the hope that a return to the fundamentals of our faith will help us in our own journeys of faith, and in sharing that faith with others.

We will be following up the sermons with weekly discussions taking place on **Wednesday afternoons, 2.30pm at St James Church**. These will be open to anyone and everyone. The sermon titles and dates are as follows:

- 16th September - Who is God?
- 23rd September - Who is Jesus?
- 30th September - What is stewardship? (*Harvest Festival*)
- 7th October - Who is the Holy Spirit?
- 14th October - What is the Eucharist?
- 21st October - Prayer and God's power to heal (*St Luke*)
- 28th October - Discovering God in the Old Testament (*Bible Sunday*)
- 4th November - What is the Church? (*All Saints*)
- 11th November - Why is there suffering in the world? (*Remembrance*)
- 18th November - What is mission?
- 25th November - What is the kingdom of God? (*Christ the King*)

The ministry team of clergy and readers are already making preparations for this major initiative, intended to coincide with our much-anticipated stewardship campaign. The intention is that taken as a whole the sermon series and stewardship campaign will be experienced as a major development in our commitment to Christian discipleship and mission.

As part of this initiative, and in order to make our prayer life as a parish more responsive to short and long-term needs, we will also be making some more adjustments to the pew slips.

... AND SOME CHANGES TO THE PEW SLIPS

Soon, you will see that the list of those who are sick will no longer appear on the pew slip. Instead, a notebook will be placed in each of our three churches. Worshippers will be able to enter the names of people for whom they wish prayers to be offered (ideally with their prior consent) that week. These lists will be used for the intercessions at Sunday worship and services during the following week. Those with longer term prayer needs will be added to the list of those for whom prayer is offered at the Guild of St Raphael Healing Eucharist (1st Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm at St James Church).

The names of the departed will continue to be included in the customary way, as will the years mind list.

Very soon, a parish prayer calendar will be prepared for inclusion on the pew slip. This list will focus on different areas in the parish, local schools, hospitals, community needs, businesses and other churches.

Naturally, there will need to be some adjustments, but given that we are all looking for the best way to serve the Lord and our community, I am confident that these initiatives will prove to be a blessing to us and the people of Shirley.

Reverend Peter Law-Jones

If anyone has any comments, questions or suggestions about these initiatives please speak to a member of the ministry team.



FOUR O' CLOCK LOG IN

All age activities, worship and tea

Sunday 16th September
at St James Church & Church House

Theme - 'Making a Joyful Noise'





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Theme - Which Way??

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CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

We are immensely grateful to the new volunteers who have joined our hard working team of gardeners. The churchyard at St James Church covers a large area and it would be very costly to employ gardeners. As parishioners are doubtless aware, each parish has to be self-supporting (and contribute to the running of the diocese). There is a perception that the church is wealthy but in terms of ready cash as opposed to historical treasures we have to budget very carefully. Victorian churches are an endless source of expensive repairs! More volunteers are always needed.

Aside from finances, there is movement towards looking at churchyards differently. They are, of course, consecrated burial grounds but also places of peace and tranquillity, havens for wildlife (if not over manicured) and a treasury of local and family history. Can we make more of our churchyard?

I recently visited St Mary's Church in Moseley where they have transformed a derelict and dangerous space into an asset for the whole community. Maybe we can look at some of their ideas - and think of some of our own.

Watch this space!

Kate Crocker - Parish Warden

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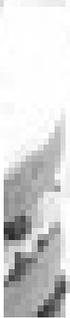
**at 10.30am on
Wednesday 12th September**

and help us to raise funds for

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SINGING WORKSHOP

Saturday 15th September
2pm to 4pm at St James Church

Another opportunity to enjoy singing well known songs and learn new ones under the expert direction of Kate Law-Jones and Kevin Gill.

At the last workshop we had over 30 singers, all keen to sing together again so why not join us? Whether you are an experienced singer or a beginner there is something to learn from our two fine professional musicians and lots of fun to be had.

It's free and there will be refreshments afterwards.



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NEWS FROM ST JAMES'S WARDENS



On the 29th July the parish celebrated St James Patronal Festival by having a BBQ. It is always lovely when the whole of the Parish has a get together where we can meet friends from St Johns and Christ the King. And guess what, it rained, would you believe it, but nonetheless the event was held in Church House where, as usual, an array of food was waiting for us after the service.

August, as usual, has been a quiet month for the church with people having their holidays. Linda, Kate and I have been busy arranging for various people to come in and do some of the jobs that are outstanding. So, by the time you read this the outside of the church should be looking as good as the War Memorial. The floor under the top altar will have been laid and the PAT testing finished. Alas the fencing and steps are still ongoing but, as previously stated, all will be sorted at our next meeting, but perhaps not in time for this report.

The front of Church House is being repaired and, to give the girls in the Parish Office a better working environment, the office has been given a makeover.



The work on the lettering on the War Memorial is about to be started ready for the Great Day - 11th November. Have you seen our new Memorial Chapel? If not, why not pop in to St James Church and have a look. It is situated in the North Transept and is a very fitting memorial to our young men and, of course, one lady, Katie Beaufort, who died in the First World War.

A bit of advertising here - why not come along to a Jazz Night, with a Fish and Chip supper, all in aid of the Shirley War Memorial. Although situated in St James Churchyard the memorial is very much for the people of Shirley. Date: **Friday 14th September**, venue: Royal British Legion, Shirley - tickets at £10 each can be obtained from our Parish Office weekdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

NEWS FROM ST JAMES'S WARDENS *continued*

The Mothers Union are looking forward to their day out to Hill Close Gardens, Warwick on **Wednesday 5th September**, while St John's will be holding a coffee and cake morning on the **12th September** in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Margaret Foreshew and Linda Pitt - Deputy Wardens

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NEWS FROM CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

It seems a very long, hot summer after all the snow and rain earlier in the year!

July saw us hold our Pet Blessing Service. It was a hot day so although pet owners turned up many had left their pets at home in the shade. However, we still welcomed two dogs and two guinea pigs plus Nicodemus Penfold, Parish Raconteur (*see page 12*).

We started with a hymn, 'For the beauty of the earth', then we said some prayers of confession and had a reading from Genesis.

Reverend Paul gave a short address on the importance of not only the pets in our lives, but all the creatures of God's Kingdom and how we should look after and respect them.



Then we had a puppet show, the first part being a musical version of the parable of the lost sheep. The children and adults alike really enjoyed them and especially the lost sheep who seemed to appear every time just out of sight of the shepherd looking for them. The shepherd's call was "YOH FLUFFY" which apparently our grandson called out every time his dad went past a field of sheep for a week after!

Then we had some more prayers for people all over the world, and for our churches, and for animals everywhere.

There followed another musical visit from the puppets who this time sang and danced to "Baa Baa We're Rams". I found myself singing this in the car going home – I don't think I will ever hear that song any other way now!

Then we all sang the song 'If I were a butterfly', including all the actions that accompany the individual creatures and animals mentioned in the verses.

Finally, it was the turn of the puppets again - an animal choir playing the trumpets and an orangutan playing a violin, all done to 'All God's Creatures' followed by a blessing for ourselves and for all of our pets.

NEWS FROM CHRIST THE KING CHURCH *continued*

Afterwards I spoke with the puppeteers who came from St Mary Magdalene Church in Tanworth-in-Arden. They are a group of senior school girls who gave up their Sunday afternoon to produce a very exceptional show and to help spread the word of God in a very unique way. They tell me that at Christmas they do a production called Bohemian Bethlehem which goes through the nativity story. I for one can't wait to see that one!

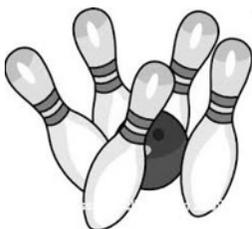
We are planning to have another pet service next year but maybe earlier or later in the year when the weather will be a bit cooler for our furry friends.

July also saw the parish enjoying a cream tea at the home of Reverend Paul and Kate. I hear it went very well with lots of scones, cream and jam and delicious cakes. (We had unexpected visitors, whom we had not seen in ages, so we had a lot of catching up to do and were not able to make it.)

Then there was the Parish Service at St James Church on 29th July followed by a bar-be-cue and other lovely food. It was well attended by all of our congregations even though the weather chose that weekend to give the gardens and fields the rain they were screaming out for!

It's lovely to share services with all our church's congregations and I have really enjoyed the Reflective Evening Worship at St John's Church, especially when I have had to work on a Sunday morning as now I don't feel I have missed out on a Sunday service at church.

Our Sunday evening worship with the people of Phoenix House is a pleasure and we always have something to share with them about how our week has gone and we listen to what they have been up to too.

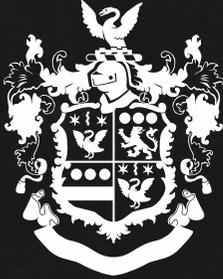


We are planning to hold our annual skittles event on **October 13th** this year, so watch your pew slips for details of this, which will include a supper - I look forward to seeing you there.

Love and prayers,

Denise Smith - Reader

Tree Surgeon



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LITTLE NICK AT THE PET BLESSING SERVICE

I was a bit scared about going to the pet service. What if there were big dogs who barked at me? But Sarah said I could sit on top of the piano and I would be safe. There were dogs but they were not big and didn't take any notice of me. There were also some guinea pigs and a dinosaur.

Sarah hadn't told me that there would be a puppet show. The first time we saw them they were singing about a farmer who had lost one of his sheep. He was very upset and kept shouting, 'I've lost my sheep'. But he found it in the end and took it home. We saw them three times altogether, not just the sheep but some other animals as well. They kept pulling funny faces and made us all laugh. In between seeing the puppets we sang some songs and Paul told us a story.

We said some prayers together. Then we had drinks and cakes.

I really hope that the puppets come to see us again because they were brilliant.

Nicodemus Penfold - Parish Raconteur



Mothers' UNION

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Diocese of Birmingham

21st June 2018

Ann Marie Aston - Solicitor
"All you need to know"

This was an entertaining and informative talk. Ann Marie recounted some of her professional experiences which illustrated some common misconceptions on the subjects of wills and power of attorney. These highlighted the need to put one's affairs and wishes in order legally and to take professional advice. Ann Marie also answered questions from members of the group.

4th July 2018

Jane McArdle - Cathedral Heritage Manager
"Divine Beauty"



This talk was about the present project at Birmingham Cathedral to clean and restore the beautiful Burne-Jones stained glass windows. If you would like to learn more about this there are leaflets at the back of St James Church or better still go along to Birmingham Cathedral to see for yourself the work in operation.

19th July 2018

Christine and Jim Beeston
"Our Japanese Adventure"

Christine and Jim visited Japan in April of this year - cherry blossom time. Not only did they view the stunning blossom trees but they also learned much of Japan's history, geography, traditions and religion. They showed us many slides illustrating their holiday. Thank you Christine and Jim for an interesting presentation and for answering our questions and queries.



A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I read with interest Canon David Winter's article in the June edition of this magazine.

He tells of the "huts" in the First World War, where soldiers could find "a meal, hot drinks, comfortable seats and company, offering emotional and spiritual support"

As our readers may know, the building that houses St John's Church in Tidbury Green was a WW1 army hut. I cannot think that it would actually have been used in the field of battle, but I hope it still serves the same purpose – offering hot drinks, comfortable seats, company and emotional and spiritual support. Its visitors are not involved in a war-like battle but are perhaps battling with the pressures of a busy life in the previous week and coming weeks or the pressure of loneliness. We hope that by visiting our "hut" they may find a time of peace and support.



I can recommend the Reflective Worship on the first Sunday of the month at St John's. It is difficult to provide complete silence – as Reverend Paul and Kate suggested in another article in the June edition – with traffic racing past, but the time in between vehicles is precious.

It helps me – I pray that it will also help others.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Wall

Contributions to this magazine are welcome at any time - email the Editor - shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com

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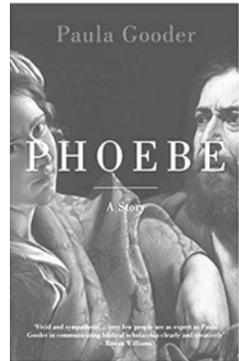
A BOOK REVIEW

Paul's letter to the Romans ends in chapter 16 with a long list of names – Phoebe, Prisca, Aquila, Epaenetus, Mary, Andronicus and many more.

Who were these people, and others mentioned in Paul's letters or by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles? Have you ever wondered how well Paul knew them, what their roles were in the church, what each of their personal histories were, how they became believers and what their lives as Christians in those early years of the church were really like?

Paula Gooder has written a story with Phoebe – as mentioned in Romans 16:1 – as the main character. Phoebe, a deacon in the church, is given the responsibility of carrying Paul's letter to the churches in Rome. That much we know – the rest is formed from imagination and scholarship.

Paula builds a character around the name Phoebe. She uses her knowledge of both the New Testament and of the Roman culture of the time to introduce us to someone who has become a believer, and a trusted leader in the Corinthian church, but who also has a secret past which haunts her and troubles her.



The story weaves a number of threads together. The church in Rome and how it receives the letter we call “Romans”; the lives of Christians in Rome as we learn about the tensions between individuals and between different Christian traditions (yes there were different traditions even in the early church!); the cost of being a believer in what could be a hostile environment and, of course, the story of Phoebe as she comes to terms with her past and sees how God might use that past to help her serve him in the future.

As one would expect from Paula Gooder, it is done very well. The story is eminently readable. I read it in just a couple of sittings. But the clever part is how the theology contained in Paul's letters, the gospels and Acts permeates the story. The story gives a context for the theology that is often missing when we simply read a letter. It describes what the characters reading the letter to the Romans might have been like, how they might have lived and what were their likely challenges and fears.

A BOOK REVIEW continued

I guarantee that you will finish the book with a far better understanding of what Paul is trying to say in his letters, and how much of what he says still has many applications today.

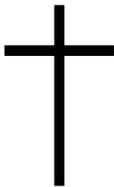
I also think this is a book that would do well to be read and discussed by a group together, perhaps looking at a few chapters for each session and talking about what we have read. If you are interested in this, please let me know and we'll get something set up for the Autumn.

Phoebe – a story by Paula Gooder is published by Hodder & Stoughton @ £14.99 (currently £11.99 on Amazon for hardback and £5.99 for kindle download)

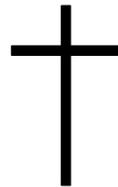
Reverend Paul Day

Did anyone else read a book on holiday that they would like to share with us?

*Email the Editor - shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com
and don't forget that the Parish Book Club meets once a month in Church House - see the Pew Slips for details*



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OUR PARISH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

- 1st Churchyard working party at St John's Church
- 2nd The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 9am: Christ the King and St John's Joint Service at St John's Church
 7pm: Reflective Evening Worship at St John's Church
- 3rd 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion
- 4th 11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion
- 4th-6th The Friends of St James Walking Club holiday
- 5th 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
 2pm: MU outing to Hill Close Gardens, Warwick
 7pm: Holy Communion and Guild of St Raphael at St James Church
- 9th The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
- 10th 11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion
- 11th 11am: Communications Committee Meeting
 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 12th 10.30am: 'Coffee, cake & company' at St John's Church
 11am: Greenhill Way Holy Communion
- 14th HOLY CROSS DAY
 7.30pm: Jazz Night at Shirley Royal British Legion
- 15th 2pm: Singing Workshop at St James Church
- 16th The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
 4pm: LogIn at St James Church and Church House
- 18th 10.30am: Mason House Holy Communion
 7.30pm: PCC Meeting
- 19th 10.30am: Share a Prayer and Bible study
 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
- 20th 3.30pm: Messy Church at Widney Junior School
 7.30pm: MU – 'The Story of the Titanic' with Sheila Parker
- 21st MATTHEW, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST
- 22nd 10.30am: The Friends of St James Coffee Morning at Church House
- 23rd The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

OUR PARISH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2018 *continued*

- 25th 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
 26th 4pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church
 27th 2pm: 'Journey to the Stable' rehearsal at St James Church
 29th MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
- 30th The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
 HARVEST FESTIVAL**
 6.30pm: Archdeacon Hayward Osborne's retirement service
 at Birmingham Cathedral

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

OCTOBER 2018 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Wednesday 12th September

PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 29th September



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'WHATEVER YOU DO'

'Most Christians don't really believe that the ordinary things they do every day have anything much to do with God's purposes in time and eternity. But the reality is that God can and does work through His people ... among the people they naturally meet, doing the things they normally do.'

(Mark Greene, London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC))

September is the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. It's a good opportunity to ask how God wants us to make a difference in our workplace, school, family or with friends.

The Apostle Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.'

(Colossians Chapter 3 verse 17).

As disciples, we are called to do the ordinary things in the name of Jesus, i.e. *act in the way Jesus would in our situation.*

'WHATEVER you do': God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn't be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which the whole is available to God.

'Whatever YOU do': God wants to use us to make a difference to the people and places where we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

'Whatever you DO': Our work is for God alone, out of gratitude for God's love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do seems hard, unrewarding, or unappreciated by others?



'Work doesn't take us away from God; it continues the work of God.'

(Eugene Peterson).

Reverend Paul Hardingham

**God's Work
Our Hands**

HOLY CROSS DAY - 14th SEPTEMBER

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14th September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14th September 335.

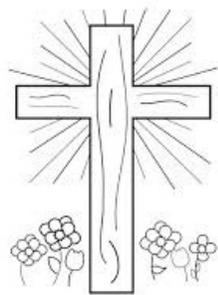
The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John Chapter 12 verse 32)

The Sign of the Cross



DIARY OF A MOMENTOUS YEAR : AUGUST 1918

Many historians of the First World War consider that two battles in the summer of 1918 were the final turning points in the eventual outcome of the war and of the settlement which followed it.

The second Battle of Marne was in July, and the even more significant Battle of Amiens was in August, exactly a century ago. The Germans had launched an attack in the Amiens area, a strategic target in northern France near the Belgian border. The Allies were ready for it and responded with devastating force. Hundreds of tanks, soldiers from at least four nationalities, and – a new development in warfare – ground attack aircraft, drove the Germans out of the city.

In the first few hours of the battle the Allies took 17,000 prisoners of war. Commentators consider that at least some of them were German soldiers who had had enough of a war they were obviously going to lose. The city of Amiens and much territory beyond it were recaptured, but the impact of the victory was greater than territory taken. The whole balance of military strength had changed beyond dispute.

In 1946, a year after the second World War ended, my older brother invited me to join him on a visit to France. A family he had been billeted with in Amiens, as a member of the British liberating forces, had invited him to come and spend some time with them in more peaceful circumstances. At 16 I'd never been abroad, so gladly agreed to go. When we got off the train in Amiens I saw for the first time the consequences of what they called 'total war'. We picked our way past ruined buildings and homes in a city that had endured both invasion and four years of enemy occupation.

I had seen the after-effects of the Blitz in London, but this was worse. Even outside the city, the landscape bore all the scars of war. There were few trees, for instance, the long-term result of endless shelling over two wars. As M. Deladier, our host, pointed out, Amiens had been a battle-ground four times in his life (I guess he was about 60) – twice in the First World War and then twice in the Second. The experience helped me to appreciate what the people of northern France had gone through. No wonder in 1945 they were adamant that there should never again be war in Europe like this. The embattled city of Amiens, too often a scene of brutal warfare, reminds us of the preciousness of *peace*.

DIARY OF A MOMENTOUS YEAR : SEPTEMBER 1918

Modern people, distraught if deprived of ‘all mod con’, must be baffled how men survived year after year of living much of the time in the trenches of the Western Front. For month after month everything was ankle deep in mud. These were their living quarters, complete with primitive toilet arrangements, permanent damp, rats and trench foot – and that’s before one mentions the enemy’s constant shelling.

There were, of course, moments of respite at rest centres behind the lines – and there was always the coveted hope of a ‘blighty’, a wound that was not too serious but would mean treatment back in the UK. ‘Blighty’ was an Urdu word passed on by soldiers who had served in India – it means ‘European’, or in this case ‘home’.

Some men, it’s true, succumbed to what was called ‘shell shock’ - traumatic stress syndrome. But the amazing fact is that most not only survived the trench conditions and the ever-present danger, but even looked back on it as a significant experience to be proud of. How on earth did they do it?



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

My answer, largely based on things I heard from my father and his war-time colleagues, centred on two experiences: songs, and camaraderie. When they marched and sang ‘Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag’ and called on each other to ‘smile, boys, smile’, they were celebrating being part of a strange and exhilarating brotherhood. Humour was rife in the trenches, much of it about the sheer awfulness of their situation. The ‘Wiper’s Times’, a newspaper produced by soldiers in Ypres, can still make us laugh, as its recent revival on stage has proved.

It was the camaraderie - the sense of belonging to an exclusive ‘club’ - which made the humour possible and authenticated the songs. It was a profound feeling of belonging which made the impossible bearable. There was, one must add, a third element in trench survival: the chaplains and the Salvation Army. I never heard a single veteran discount their value, right there in the heart of things, offering a prayer, yes, but also tea and cakes and understanding. Of course the soldiers hated the war, the loss of comrades, the relentless months of deadly danger. But their songs and memories also told another story, which we should not forget.

FOOD & CLOTHING BANKS UPDATE



FOOD BANK: It has been a catastrophic summer at “our” Food Bank. In the early days, we used to fret if we ran out of carrots one week or mashed potatoes the next. During one memorable week in July this year, we had no tinned tomatoes, or pasta sauce or tinned potatoes or tinned carrots or tinned fruit or rice

pudding or sugar, or UHT juice, or powdered milk or even UHT full fat milk for the children. The policy of the Trussell Trust Food Banks is to give out nutritionally balanced parcels of food. What a joke/disaster! How can one possibly supply any Vitamin C if there is no fruit juice, tinned fruit or vegetables? What are folks supposed to put on their cereals if there’s no milk, powdered or otherwise? What do families put on the large parcels of rice or pasta which we are still able to supply - pretty dire with no tinned tomatoes or pasta sauces. It was SO frustrating and upsetting! (There are still armies of baked beans!!)

The crash in supplies seemed to come very suddenly, coinciding with the start of the school holidays when children no longer have access to free school dinners, breakfast clubs or after school clubs where they are often fed too; this puts enormous extra strain on already stretched family finances. And for working parents there was the extra financial strain of paying for childcare.

Gareth sent out an emergency appeal to the usual donors and gradually supplies started to come in. One generous cash donation allowed a purchase of tinned tomatoes and powdered milk. Harvest Festival is the second most generous source of donations (Christmas being number one) but that’s seven or eight weeks away. In the meantime, all donations of any of the above items would be very, very welcome. If anyone reading this belongs to organisation or club which could have a special collection – that would be wonderful.

As you know, Tesco and Waitrose have collecting bins in their stores for us - as does the One Stop Shop in Prospect Lane. The food doesn’t need to have been bought at any particular store, just put it in the bin and it will be cleared each week at least. Or leave it at the Parish Office where we will clear it each Monday.





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FOOD & CLOTHING BANKS UPDATE continued

Isn't it heart breakingly sad? I feel for the children but whatever age you are you should be able to eat every day.

CLOTHING BANK: Can anyone help with a pair of men's trainer bottoms and some trainers size 9 please?

Thanks for your care, Elizabeth Paice



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT - 'SOUL CARE'

*What will you gain, if you own the whole world but destroy yourself?
What would you give to get back your soul? (Matthew Chapter 16 verse 26)*

Reflect:

Our soul is the deepest part of us; it integrates all the parts of mind, body and will. As Dallas Willard says: 'What is running your life at any given moment is your soul. Not external circumstances, not your thoughts, not your intentions, not your feelings, but your soul ... the soul is the life centre of human beings.' (*Renovation of the Heart*). To lose our soul means to lose our sense of a divine centre, to become disconnected from God. Acquiring the whole world could not make up for losing our soul. And we lose our soul when we chase the things this world offers.

Respond:

Do something today that lifts your soul to God. Do something that connects you to God's grace, energy and joy. Enjoy sunshine, a great view, a beautiful piece of music, conversation with friends who love you, an early night.

Re-connect with God, slow down; don't rush today.



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CHURCH'S FAMILY SERVICE FOR BIRDS ...



A vicar closed his church when he found nesting birds rearing their young in his lectern. And Adrian Brooks was rewarded with the sight of eight baby Eurasian blue tits.

To help the visitors to fledge their chicks, the 14th century church was shut to the general public for two weeks, services for parishioners were held without the organ and the bells were silenced.

To help the new family, the congregation at St Thomas a Becket church in Sourton, on the edge of Dartmoor, blessed the birds after each service.

The birds flew away two weeks later.

Local wildlife photographer Colin Sargent, who took pictures of the blue tits inside the lectern, said: "We had to encourage them out of windows and doors. They all eventually got out safely, which was a big relief for everyone. Everything is back to normal now and as soon as they left the bell ringers were back."



Reverend Brooks added: "As in any church grounds we get swallows that nest but it's the first time we've had any birds inside the church."

The nest was discovered by maintenance man Tony Batten who spotted the visitors flying around the lectern. When he shone his torch inside the lectern's carved holes, he was amazed to discover the nest of newly-hatched chicks inside. Though their typical site is a hole in a tree, blue tits have been recorded nesting in a variety of places, from letter boxes to street lamps.

Thank you to Neil Firkins for spotting this story and sharing it with us and to the Daily Express and Colin Sargent (<http://www.colinsargent.co.uk/>) for the permission to reproduce it.

CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

	3			2			6
7	9			8		2	
8							
		5				2	
		8	2	3	9		
	6				7		
							9
		1		4		6	8
6			1			5	

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Answers are on page 33



1		2			3		4		5		6	
7					8							
	9			10		11		12		13		14
15												
16												
17	18			19	20		21					
			22									23
24									25			
26							27					

ACROSS

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
 19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)
 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)
 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

DOWN

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
 11 Do ten (anag.) (5)
 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22)(4)
 18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

WORDSEARCH - REMEMBRANCE 100

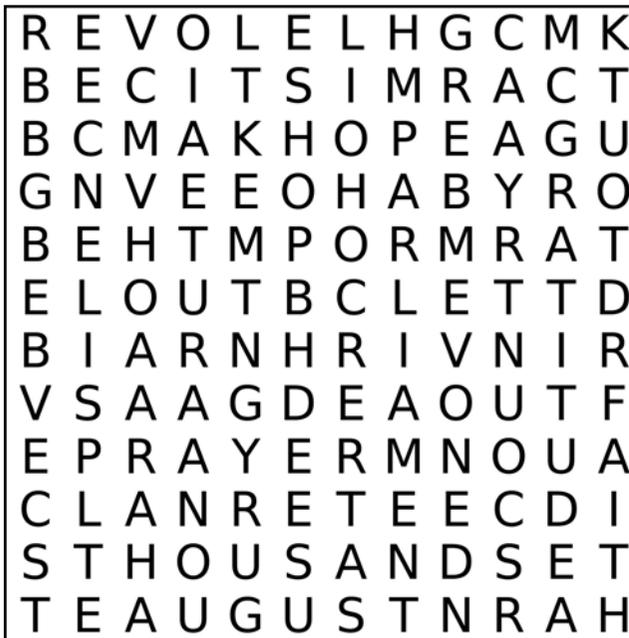
On 4th August 1918 King George V met to pray with members of the Houses of Parliament. One hundred days later, the war ended. Last month, 4th August 2018 was the first day of 100 days of prayer across the country, running until Armistice Day in November. Thousands of Christians across the country are using daily prayers, Bible readings and reflections from *100 Days of Peace and Hope*, which can be downloaded, a week at a time from

<https://www.remembrance100.co.uk/100-days/>

HOPE has also published a beautifully illustrated booklet called *Silence* which will be given away at Remembrance events. *Silence* invites readers to look back with gratitude, and to reflect on eternal themes of faith, hope and love.

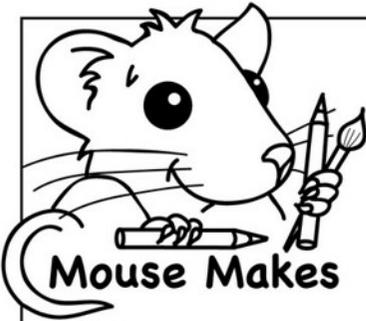


ARMISTICE
 AUGUST
 BACK
 COUNTRY
 DAY
 ETERNAL
 FAITH
 GEORGE
 GRATITUDE
 HOPE
 HUNDRED
 LOOK
 LOVE
 NOVEMBER
 PARLIAMENT
 PEACE
 PRAYER
 REMEMBRANCE
 SILENCE
 THEMES
 THOUSANDS

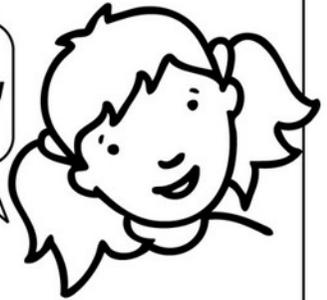


Answers are on page 33

What do you say when you pray?



When I pray I say **THANK YOU** to God



When I pray I say **SORRY** and ask God to forgive me



I pray for my **FAMILY** and my **FRIENDS**



I pray The Lord's Prayer from **Matthew 6:9-13**

When I pray I tell God about my **WORRIES** and ask Him to help me



PATER NOSTER

is Latin for 'Our Father'

How many other words can you make with the letters from **PATER NOSTER** ?

Here are two to start you off

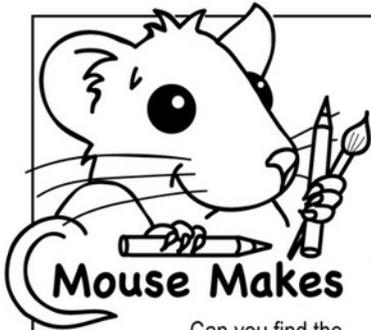
SON **PEAS**

.....
.....
.....
.....

I talk to God all the time about all sorts of things!



What do you pray to God about?



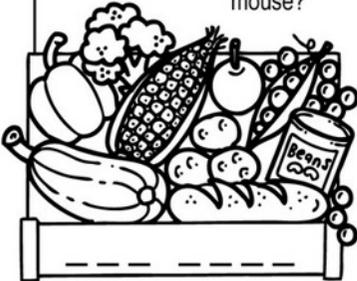
A HARVEST PUZZLE

Change each letter to the letter **before** it in the alphabet to see how QSPWFSTC 3:9 says we can give thanks to God.

Can you find the mouse?



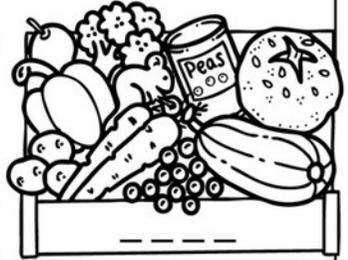
IPOPVS



UIF MPSE



XJUI



ZPVS



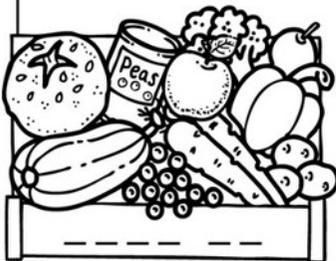
XFBMUI



BOE UIF



GJSTU



QBSU PG



ZPVS



IBSWFTU

Which two boxes have the same harvest food?

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

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



5	3	4	7	1	2	8	9	6
7	9	6	3	8	5	2	1	4
8	1	2	6	9	4	5	3	7
3	4	5	9	7	8	6	2	1
1	7	8	2	6	3	9	4	5
2	6	9	4	5	1	7	8	3
4	5	3	8	2	6	1	7	9
9	2	1	5	4	7	3	6	8
6	8	7	1	3	9	4	5	2

A PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER

Dear Father,
September again!

How quickly the months roll by. How quickly our lives move forward.

Help us this September to welcome the new starts in our everyday lives - the new school year, the new clubs and activities for all ages that start up again this month. There are so many opportunities, so much to keep us busy.

Help us Lord, this September to commit each new day and each new activity to you, aware that every day is a gift from you. Help us to choose wisely how we spend the time you give us and to reflect your love and generosity and kindness to those we meet each day.

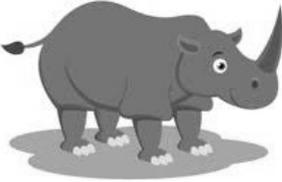
In Jesus name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching

SHIRPAS ON SAFARI

The morning mist promised blue skies later as the Shirpas set off.

Leaving the grassland behind we trekked round the lake and through the woodland. But the jungle beckoned our intrepid walkers and we were soon on a narrow path waist high in grasses and other plant life.



The back of the line went quiet - had we lost someone to a Heffalump trap? A quick count showed that we were all still there. The last signs of civilisation had vanished by the time we saw a rhinoceros, well what else could be threading its way through the long undergrowth.

Past a dried-up river bed we carried on.

We reached the edge of the jungle and the fields stretched away in front of us. Not sure where they were stretching to we turned back and retraced our steps to the marshlands. Bull rushes now bordered the path.

In the distance we saw the first sign of habitation - a church spire. We pressed on finally coming to the Parkridge watering hole where we shared travellers' tales over coffee and hot chocolate.



And all within Brueton Park

The Shirpas

(Did you know that the Shirpas (Shirley Parish) Nordic walking group meet on the last Wednesday morning of each month?)




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JUNE	3rd	Isabelle Daisy Moll Ariella Grace Dymock
	10th	Jacob Andrew Pedley Jamie William Hayward
	24th	Avella Eirwen Ann Morgan
JULY	1st	Reggie Lee Reeves Lily-Jayne Woodley
	8th	Hayden Stokes Finn John Cliff-Morgan Orla Bamidele
	15th	Leo John Hardcastle Poppy Nelson
	22nd	Wren Aidan Jo Morgan
	29th	Lily-Ann Thompson Lexi-Jane Thompson

ST JAMES' WEDDINGS

JUNE	9th	Matthew Darkes and Leah Pugh
	15th	Thomas Convey and Claire Worrall
JULY	21st	Dean Thomas and Emma Purnell
	27th	Gemma Murray and Matthew Brown

PARISH FUNERALS

JUNE	6th	Brenda Ellis	94
	19th	Jean Rojek	96
	20th	Sheila Saunders	80
	20th	Barbara Hill	93
	22nd	Edith Williams	88
	25th	Sylvia Sherwood	93
JULY	25th	Margaret Prince	81
	2nd	Joyce Mannison	87
	12th	Jessie Dunham	92
	13th	Debra McCambridge	60
	16th	Jeanne Hudson	94

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