

Shirley Parish Magazine

Meet some of our churchyard working party - Wednesday mornings from 10am if you'd like to join them



Linda Neale

'I have been cutting the grass where the mowers cannot reach'



Margaret Humphries

'I wish I had counted how many green bags I have filled'



Our Nye Bevan rose, introduced last year to honour the NHS



Peter Hill

'I am the resident rose man'



Pam Owen

'The only way to weed the path!'

SHIRLEY PARISH



KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN

September 2022

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

CLERGY

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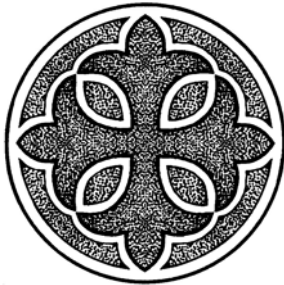
Social Media: [twitter.com/@ParishB90](https://twitter.com/ParishB90)

facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/ShirleyParishB90>

PARISH OFFICE
is open Monday to
Friday (except Bank
Holidays)
9.30am - 12.30pm

OUR PARISH PRAYERS



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

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

THIS MONTH'S SERVICES

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Thursday 1st	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 4th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	6pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Church
Thursday 8th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 11th	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church
Thursday 15th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 17th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 18th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Thursday 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 25th	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Thursday 29th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church

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

Recordings/live streams -

<https://www.youtube.com/ShirleyParishB90>

Copies of the sermons can be found on our website -

<https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/download-a-sermon>



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

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”

In the last magazine Reverend Paul wrote about spending time with God and listening to him. Strange really as I had decided to do just that.

Over the last few months I have found myself floundering in my spiritual life and have really struggled to get back on track. It was because of this that I knew that I had to take myself on a retreat, albeit a self-made one, to try to discover why I was feeling this way and find myself again.

It is never easy when faced with situations not of ones own making but being in the middle wondering whether to turn the other cheek or not. I find that praying about these dark times I find myself in is a big help because I know that God is always with me, and telling me how to go about things. BUT this time I found that I didn't like what He was telling me so I rebelled, hence by spiritual battle.

Well needless to say after a week walking and talking with Him, He soon bought me to book and I found myself listening and doing what He always expected of me. Hard sometimes but as long as He is with me in each step I take then I know that everything will be alright in the end.

During my retreat I did a lot of walking and I even took a train journey where I was able to relax and look at God's wonderful creation, the green valleys and lovely trees all of which helped me to reach out to God.

It was after I arrived home that Reverend Theresa suggested a book to read, Sabbath by Nicola Slee, pity I hadn't taken it away with me as I would have found it beneficial. Below is part of a poem by Wendell Berry which Nicola Slee based her book on.



*“I go among trees and sit still.
All my stirring becomes quiet
around me like circles on water.
My tasks lie in their places
where I left them, asleep like cattle.”*

Why not take a walk in the woods and experience God's wonder for yourselves.

Margaret Foreshew

PS Outside my house I have some beautiful trees and I noticed that three of them fill the outlook from my bedroom window. I immediately changed by room around in order to lie in bed and think about God's creation.

THE ADMISSION OF CHURCH WARDENS

On Sunday 10th July, Gill and Margaret, along with other Church Wardens in our Deanery, were formerly admitted to the office by Archdeacon Jenny at a service at Holy Cross Church in Billesley Common.

At the beginning of the service we were reminded that, as legal guardians of church property and leaders with the Bishop and Incumbent, Church Wardens are honoured lay ministers. They are called to:

- Represent the laity and work with the incumbent for the mission and ministry of the parish
- Promote unity, peace and spiritual growth through their example and encouragement
- Be present and ensure good order and welcome during worship and other events
- Take a lead during vacancies alongside the Area Dean

and an oath was sworn during the service that these duties will be carried out faithfully and diligently.

There was a rousing rendition of the hymns Praise my soul the King of heaven, All I once held dear and I, the Lord of Sea and Sky during the service and Archdeacon Jenny reflected on the reading from Acts Chapter 6, verses 1-7.

Area Dean, Reverend Phelim O'Hare, visited the Parish on behalf of the Archdeacon on Monday 15th August to review our records and the activities in the Parish.

Gill Hanton



OCTOBER 2022 PARISH MAGAZINE

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY
Monday 12th September 2022

MEMORIES OF BARBARA EDWARDS

On 13th July, family and friends gathered for a service at St John's Church to celebrate the life of Barbara Edwards who passed away in December 2021. Many tributes were shared during the service including the following from Sue Doley -

"I know that Barbara had many friends, and some were long standing relationships. I only knew her for a comparatively short time, but she was a lovely special friend to me.

I met her when I first came to St Johns in 2010 but it wasn't until 2014 when I was preparing for my confirmation that I suddenly realised that I needed a sponsor for the ceremony. There was no-one who qualified for this within my friends and family, so I tentatively asked Barbara and was delighted when she readily agreed. She came with me, was very supportive and kept me calm as I was running late as usual! This was the start of an unexpected and close friendship.

She invited me to her home where I spent many happy times chatting with her. She was always welcoming, kind and interesting, talking about her life and experiences, some of which we shared. She had a great sense of humour, and I always felt a calm, safe and warm comfort being with her ... even though she would soon let me know if she didn't like or agree with something. There was a similarity in this to the characteristics of my much-loved dogs for she could be as tenacious and feisty as a terrier and occasionally she might just nip you.

I admired that and her strength when coping with her increasing disabilities. There were difficult decisions like giving up the independence of the car and then her eyesight was failing, and she couldn't see it properly, so the TV had to go. Barbara always seemed very definite about her decisions and did not waste time looking back or complaining about her lot in life.

She loved St John's Church and was saddened when she couldn't manage the entrance steps which also prevented getting a wheelchair in. Happily, she was able to attend Christ the King Church and also St Marys in Wythall due to the kindness of one of the parishioners there.

I was always aware of Barbara's strong Christian faith which sustained and strengthened her. To me she was unique in that she would talk about it, share her thoughts and answer my questions, a mentor to me on my own sometimes very wobbly path!

She was a little lady with a big heart, I do miss her but she was one of life's gems who will sparkle in my memory forever."

The service ended with prayers around the tree planted in St John's garden in memory of Barbara.

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

On Sunday 17th July, some ladies from the Parish braved the heatwave and travelled to a 'Way of Discipleship Celebration Service' at Birmingham Cathedral.

The service was led by Reverend Guy Donegan-Cross, Director of Learning for Discipleship and Mission at Church of England Birmingham and the preacher was the Bishop of Birmingham.

We received certificates signed by them in recognition of our completion of modules of the course, you might like to use the prayer that is on the back of those certificates:

God our Father
 Draw me to be with you
 In my daily life
 In everything I do
 Growing in those habits with open me up to your presence.

Lord Jesus Christ,
 Saviour and Lord,
 Help me to grow in your character
 To be renewed in my mind
 Seeing the world as you see it
 To be surrendered in my heart
 So that I am wanting what you want
 And to be offering my life in self-giving love
 As you offered yours for the world.

Holy Spirit,
 May I join in with your work,
 Looking for signs of the Kingdom
 Seeking your reign of justice and joy.
 As a disciple, may I pay attention to your voice above all
 And respond in obedient joy.

Help me to follow you, and to go and make disciples.
 To your glory.
 Amen



<https://www.cofebirmingham.com/everyday-faith/being-a-christian/way-of-discipleship>

Gill Hanton

WELCOME REVEREND WENDY MARTIN!

Hello, I'm Revd. Wendy Martin and it is wonderful for me to be joining the ministry team in Shirley Parish as a part-time, self-supporting, Associate Priest and I look forward to meeting you, worshipping with you and joining in with what God is doing in Shirley. I am dyslexic and find remembering names difficult, so please don't be offended if it takes me a while to remember yours!

I was born in Surrey and greatly enjoyed a 36 year career as a nurse, midwife and midwife lecturer, in London, Hertfordshire, Surrey and Sussex. At 24 years I spent 6 months in Israel caring for a new-born infant in a high-profile family. This enabled me to travel within Israel, New York and Egypt and participate in an archaeological dig in the Golan Heights afterwards - all formative experiences.

I attended Church of England schools and chose to be baptised and confirmed aged 13. I was brought up in a non-churchgoing, single-parent family with three sisters, and fell away from church attendance as a teenager. I returned, aged 28, as a result of a warm welcome when seeking marriage in a Methodist Church. I began to learn to follow Jesus by listening to sermons, being part of a Home Group and helping to run the church crèche. After 10 years, as a result of attending a Christianity Explored course, I understood more fully who Jesus was, what He had done for me on the Cross, and made a deeper commitment to follow Him. I began to pray and read the Bible more. I felt very inadequate when, within a year, I felt Jesus, calling me to preach and 'shepherd his people'.

I began the long journey, for me, towards ordained ministry, as a Methodist Local Preacher.

Now, 24 years later, while life has been very tough at times, God has been faithful and 'an ever-present help in times of trouble'. God has encouraged, sustained, healed and provided for me, and my family, through much adversity. For this,

I am eternally thankful. I have learned much about different Christian spiritualities and churchmanship's and have trained to be a Spiritual Accompanier.



WELCOME REVEREND WENDY *continued*

I am an Associate of the Iona Community and try to live within a Rule of Life which includes simplicity, sustainability and contemplative prayer.

I am passionate about helping others come to know Jesus for themselves, helping to develop their faith and sharing the abundant love God has for *all* people. I am also passionate that our churches should be welcoming and accessible places for all, whatever their background, gender identity, dis/ability, ethnicity and sexuality. My pronouns which I use are she/her.

Following a call to Birmingham, I have been here 10 years now, and live in Ward End, not far from Heartlands Hospital. I was ordained Deacon in 2019, priest in 2020, and served my curacy in Garretts Green. My two sons live in West Sussex, and this October, I will become a Grandma for the first time! I enjoy my self-employed work as a Companion to Older People very much, and for relaxation, my interests include, exploring new places, researching my family history and making greeting cards.



You are invited to

*Afternoon
Tea*

2pm until 4pm

Saturday 3rd September 2022
at St John's Church B90 1PW

Tickets - £7
from Gill Hanton (07973 942145)
or the Parish Office

Come and
join us for



on Tuesday 27th September
10am - 11.30am
in Church House
and help us to raise funds for

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

PLACE OF WELCOME  WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE MORNING 

OPEN THE BOOK

As a parish we have been ‘opening the book’ with schools for a number of years.

Originally at Dickens Heath, and more recently with Widney and Kingswood schools. Open the Book is a nationally recognised scheme for telling the major stories of the Bible to primary school children. Which makes it sound rather dry and boring. Which it isn’t.



We use the storyteller Bible along with a handbook which gives us introductions and closing prayers to enable the stories to be put into context. The stories themselves often include dialogue and we tell them with one member of the team acting as narrator and other taking the individual parts. Costumes are a basic robe each although we may add angel wings, crowns etc. as appropriate.

Often some of the children can be included in the action, and there is never a shortage of volunteers even before they know what we want them to do. This year we have had two firsts, first ever outdoor Open the Book, and first ever getting the children to join in the dialogue from strategic crib cards.

Although we try to do the same story with both schools in each week the two experiences can be very different. At Widney there are 60 year 3 children in the school hall, and with Kingswood a much smaller number of reception age children come into church. Whichever, our Open the Book team find it very rewarding. The children all enjoy the stories and there are some special moments like the day when one of the children from Kingswood described the Bible as ‘like a library’. The Kingswood children often give us a sneak preview of songs they are doing for Christmas or the end of term. A few years ago the team were invited to a dress rehearsal of the Widney school production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

There are currently six members of the team, some do one day, some the other and some both. If you think you might be interested in joining the team please speak to Sarah Penfold.

The Open the Book Team

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the July & August winners

£50 ~ Sarah Penfold & David Cox

£25 ~ Jan Gardner & Diane Carbin

JIMMY TOTS

We would just like to update you on the last academic year at Jimmy Tots.

I know it is mentioned in church many times, but it may be that a lot of you don't know much about what we do.

Jimmy Tots was set up by Wendy Carter about nine years ago with the help of Linda Jenkinson, Jane Cook and a few others. They are still helping to run it, but we now have a lot more volunteers to call upon. Pat Powell, Sue Guy, Sarah Penfold, Linda Alford, Paul Day and me (Pauline Mason) like to get involved with activities for the children and nattering with the Mums. Diane Carbin, Marilyn Leonard, Gill Smart, Sarah Hornsey, Linda Reynolds and Myra Taylor like to help in the kitchen. They keep the Mums supplied with coffee and biscuits and love to listen to their news. They prepare the snack and drinks for the children, as well as helping out with clearing up. We also still have the occasional visit from Wendy, which is lovely.

Over the years we have had many carers and toddlers come to our door to find friendship and fun. Some only come for one session, some come now and again and some have come every week, because the carer and children love it so much. We have got to know some of them very well and are so sad when they leave because the child is moving on to nursery or school. Sometimes they have been to us with several children or grandchildren. This year we said goodbye to two children and their carers, who have been with us for many years. Nikkie came with her son Harrison and then returned with her daughter Ellie after lockdown. Nikkie sent us a message to say '... you are all so lovely and are like a second family to me. You don't judge and are very friendly and welcoming and are even there if I need a chat. I look forward to Fridays just as much as Ellie does ... we think you're all wonderful'. Gill is a grandma, who has been to us with three of her grandchildren over the last seven years. The last one was Izzy, but unfortunately, she is now moving on to school. She said '... they have all enjoyed it, will be sad to be saying goodbye to you all'. We will miss them so much - they have been so supportive and kind and of course the children have been a delight to know.

This academic year was our first one back since Covid lockdowns. We opened up last September with our new improved Church House garden, which has been used so much, due to the lovely weather.

The carers and children started to arrive.



... continued over the page

JIMMY TOTS continued

They were very grateful that they had somewhere to take their children each Friday morning. The children were more withdrawn and struggled to socialise at first and the carers just needed some friendly people to talk to. The volunteers were brilliant. We have had lots over the years but after lockdown we had even more who wanted to help and hopefully get lots of companionship out of it too. We have a laugh and a good natter as well as some scrumptious cakes and biscuits. Anybody is welcome. We will reopen on **September 16th**. Let's hope we have more lovely people and children coming through our doors.

Pauline Mason

Decorating Plus ... (Odd Jobs)

B90 and nearby

Call **Stewart** on **07802 566 441** or **0121 744 2804**

Email - DecoratingPlus@hotmail.co.uk



Our next meeting on Wednesday 7th September at 2pm will be Pam Sutton, giving us an update on Troop Aid.

Below is the programme for the remainder of the year. All meetings are held in Church House at 2pm on the first Wednesday in the month.

Visitors are most welcome to any of our meetings.

M.U. PROGRAMME 2022

5th October – Barry Durman, Millennium Way Walks

2nd November – Jan Dalton – Craft Session

7th December – Advent Service

Susan Knight

CHURCH HOUSE REFURBISHMENT

Back in March, we were awarded a grant from Veolia, through the Landfill Communities Trust scheme, which is an arrangement whereby community projects within 15 miles of a landfill site can request a grant from the waste company, who then set their donation against tax.

We were awarded a very generous grant of £25,425 to upgrade the infrastructure of our building with

- Loft insulation
- Upgrade of wiring
- LED lighting
- An alarm in the disabled toilet
- New emergency lighting
- New heating with infra-red electric panels on the ceilings (our gas boiler is 40 years old and on its last legs)
- Some redecoration (kitchen and lobbies to start with).

The Landfill Communities Fund requires a 10% payment from a partner organisation because they only get a 90% reduction in tax. The Friends of St James have provided this and been very supportive with all the paperwork.

Over the spring and summer, we have gone out to tender for the work and will be ready to start on 22nd August. **The main work will take about three weeks and Church House will be closed for that period (until 10th September).**

As well as providing much needed modern heating and lighting, the project aims to reduce the carbon footprint of the building. While scoping the work, we realised that there are a number of cold spots in the hall which would also benefit from insulation. I have applied for further grants for this and hope that we can do this in the future. One day, we might even have solar panels to help power our heating! This is all about thinking ahead.

We may need to fundraise for some 'little extras'. Jimmy Tots would like a display board, it would also be good to have a whiteboard between the hatches in the kitchen for menus and other activities and we will be making the most of having electricians on site to add wiring for a defibrillator which is planned to be sited on the front wall of Church House later in the year.

This feels quite a big undertaking - but very exciting and in keeping with the great sense of hope and purpose in our community as we move on after Covid.

Any questions - ask Kate Crocker 07562 664163

HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE BIKERS WHO CAME TO OUR WELCOME CAFÉ?

It's true, one Tuesday in July half a dozen guys parked their bikes outside Church House and came in for coffee and cake. It was great to see them; they were made very welcome and had an enjoyable time.

But bikers are nothing new to St James – there are memorials to two racing motorcyclists in the churchyard (and the guys who came to the café knew all about them).

Just over the wall from Stratford Road close to the bus stop is a memorial to Rem Fowler.

Harry Rembrandt 'Rem' Fowler (1882 - 1963 in Birmingham, England) was a British motorcycle racer famous for winning the twin-cylinder class of the inaugural 1907 Isle of Man TT races.

A skilled toolmaker by trade, Rem competed as a trials rider between 1903 and 1923 and entered the first Isle of Man TT race riding a Norton motorcycle.

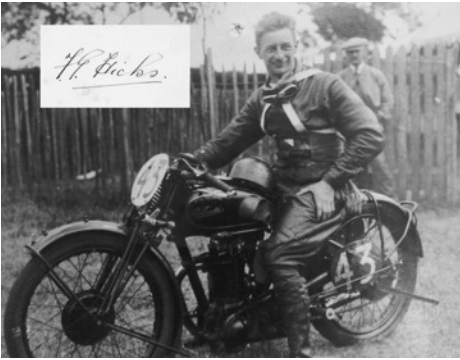


However, Rem had a tough time winning the race. At one stage he'd had so many problems changing tyres, plugs and belts that he decided to call it a day. It was only when a spectator told him that he was leading by half an hour that he decided to continue and went on to win at a speed of 42.91mph.

On the other side of the churchyard near the school is a memorial to Freddie Hicks. Frederick George Hicks won the 1929 Junior Isle of Man TT race in record time.

A couple of years later, after much success elsewhere, he was among the most experienced riders who participated in the 1931 Isle of Man Senior TT race, held that year on the last day of the programme, Friday 19th June. Earlier in the week he had competed in the Junior TT, suffering mechanical failure on his third lap, whilst being in third place.

That Friday, the course was treacherous because of early morning heavy rains, but when the six-lap Senior TT started, roads began to dry. After breaking the lap record, at 77.46 mph on his second lap, Freddie was lying in fourth place at the start of his fifth lap. Making his way through the Mountain Circuit, he lost control of his machine two miles from Douglas and crashed into the doorway of the Central Stores, a shop in the village of Union Mills. He was killed instantly aged only 30.



Reverend Paul Day



FOOD BANK NEWS

Although the Trussell Trust, who operate the largest number of food banks in the country, are campaigning to convince the government to provide enough funding for the benefit system so as to remove the need for foodbanks, the needs of people who can't make ends meet is greater than ever.



The demand for food parcels is at its highest it has ever been apart from during the lockdowns. And for understandable reasons, donations have dropped. So much so that there is a great need for every type of non-perishable food apart from pasta, rice and baked beans (but please nothing that contains alcohol or is out-of-date). The Trussell Trust is having to spend a lot of money buying food which it rarely used to do before.

Louise and Philip Monypenny

Baskets for donations can be found in Asda, Sainsburys, Tesco and Waitrose

Details of the urgent needs and about how to give a financial donation can be found on the website - <https://sparkhill.foodbank.org.uk/>

KINGFISHER OR WOW MOMENTS

Way back in June I went to a conference for the clergy of the Diocese. Former Archbishop Rowan Williams was speaking, amongst other things, about looking out for the presence of God in our daily lives. Keeping alert for moments where we see him – in other people, in the natural world, in the way events just hold together. He used an illustration that has stuck with me.

Imagine walking alongside a stream. You are alert and aware of what's going on around you. Listening to the babbling of the stream and the birds singing, watching the leaves and branches in the breeze, smelling the flowers and plants on the bank. And you notice the flash of blue as a kingfisher darts past. There for a second and gone again. Wow.



You have not been looking for a kingfisher, but you have been aware of what's all around you and you notice it. A wow moment. Or perhaps we should rename it as a kingfisher moment. If you had not been looking around the moment would have gone unnoticed.

Since then in our Sunday services at St James (and occasionally in St John's and Christ the King) we have taken a moment in our worship to think about those wow moments, those kingfisher moments, those times when we have seen God in our lives. Some people have been brave enough to share those moments with the whole church.

It has been wonderful to hear of things that people have noticed – some seemingly ordinary things – plants growing in the garden for example – and some truly remarkable experiences of God's presence. But what has been equally wonderful is the buzz of chatter that there is as we share the moments with those around us. It seems there is so much to share!

Noticing God in our lives like this helps us to be encouraged by our own experiences and also by what others experience. It deepens our faith and helps us to realise that we don't leave God behind in church at the end of the Sunday service – he is alongside us every moment of every day. We just need to look out for him!

Reverend Paul Day



Is Sunday a quiet day for you, or maybe you are looking for something new to do?

Jan Dalton is hoping to set up a **Sunday Lunch Club** once a month for anyone who would like to come.

Give Jan a call on 07969 326531 to find out more or pick up a leaflet in Church.

SHIRLEY GARDENING SOCIETY



We are starting our new season of meetings in St James's Church House every second Monday evening at 7.45pm.

Our first meeting will be on Monday 12th September at 7.45pm with a talk by Howard Drury entitled "Gardeners and Climate Change"

If you are keen on gardening, or have discovered an interest of late, why not come along and join us as our guest in September

For further information contact Peter Markey on 0121 705 4530

BEING GENEROUS GIVERS

On Sunday 31st July 2022 Lou Bayliss, the Diocesan Giving Facilitator, preached at the service at St James Church as part of our stewardship campaign.

If you haven't received a letter from Reverend Paul or the 'Being Generous Givers' leaflet they can be found via links in Lou's sermon on our website - <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/download-a-sermon> or contact the Parish Office.

Regular financial donations towards the work of the Parish can be made by using the Parish Giving Scheme, using envelopes or by standing order.

You can also make 'one off' donations using the card machine in St James Church or via our website -

<https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/giving>

But, it's not just about money!

All of our activities need people to organise them and to be part of the team. Is there something you think you could get involved with? Even if you don't think you have a particular gift there will be a role for you.

Can you play a musical instrument? Could you do some work in the churchyard? Could you be part of a visiting team? Would you be able to support the team in the Parish Office? Could you be on the rota to operate the technology that we use on Sundays?

Lets make the best use of the gifts and abilities that God has given us - please do get in touch!

Shirley Parish

Help support the ministry and mission of your church

<p>£5</p> <p>Donate</p>	<p>£10</p> <p>Donate</p>
<p>£20</p> <p>Donate</p>	<p>£30</p> <p>Donate</p>

KNOWING AND LOVING OUR BODIES

After being diagnosed with Stage IV cancer, theologian and author Kate Bowler worked intensively to know and love her body and its ways of both serving and failing her. As part of her spiritual practice, she wrote this letter:

Dear Body

Sometimes, I hate you. You ache. You get tired sooner than I'd like to admit. You wake me in the night for no good reason. Your cells duplicate at unpredictable rates. New grey hairs and fine lines and silver stretch marks show up out of nowhere. You let me down just when I need you the most ...

Sometimes, I want a break from living with you. I'd prefer to trade you in for a newer model. A model that isn't in constant pain, that fits better in that pair of jeans, that has more energy. With you, I am limited - bound by skin and bone and thinning hair.

With you, I am fragile ...

But God knows what it's like to live in flesh ... If God too lived in a body, then God knows the ache of growing pains and the feeling of goosebumps on a brisk day and the comfort of a warm embrace. He felt the gurgle of a hungry stomach and the annoying prick of a splinter after a day of hard work. He wept over the death of a friend. Ours is a God who sneezed and rubbed His eyes when He was sleepy. Ours is a God who knew longing, heartbreak, excitement, frustration - the full range of what it means to be human ... [and] live in a body.

So when my own body drags me down, when my muscles ache, when my worries keep me up at night, when my fear for the future leaves me motionless, when I feel lonely and exhausted and burdened, I do not worship a God who is far off.

This is a God who knows my humanity inside and out. God has counted every hair on my head (Matthew 10:30) and bottled up every tear I have shed (Psalm 56:8). Not simply because the Word formed us (Genesis 1:27), knit us together in our mothers' wombs (Psalm 139:13), was there from the very beginning ... but because God wore our skin.

By embracing the wisdom of the incarnation, Bowler learned to listen to her body's messages and be kind to herself.

Extract from a Daily Meditation from the

<https://cac.org>

and used with their permission



Thanks to Kate Crocker for sharing it with us

The Friends of St James invite you to a

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*including a raffle, book stall, bric-a-brac,
and a home made cake sale*

Saturday 8th October 2022



10.30 am until 12 noon in Church House

WASHING UP

Thank God for dirty dishes
They have a tale to tell
For by this pile I have here
It seems we're living well.
Whilst others there are starving
I've not the heart to fuss
For by this pile it's evident
That God's awfully good to us.



Author unknown, shared by Elizabeth Paice



We will be holding a
Christmas Tree Festival
from Thursday 8th to
Sunday 11th December



SHIRLEY PARISH ECO GROUP NEWS

Hose pipe ban or not, we need to save water. Let's get into the habit of saving it little by little so that this necessary resource, provided by God for our use, is never wasted.

On average each one of us uses 142 litres of water each day; that's 250 pints, which is 31 gallons. We may think that our efforts aren't going to make much difference, but there are millions of us in this country and together we can make a huge difference.

Tips for saving water ...

- 1 Keep a bucket in the shower. Direct the cold water that you run off before the warm comes through into a bucket and use for watering the garden, rinsing dishes in the sink, flushing the loo - please let the Eco group know of any other uses that you think of.
- 2 Don't rinse fruit and vegetables under a running tap, use a bowl and reuse that water in the garden.
- 3 Take shorter showers.
- 4 If you have a dishwasher ensure that it is full before use. It is more eco friendly to run a dishwasher once a day than to wash up by hand three times.
- 5 If you like cold drinks keep a jug of water in the fridge, don't run the tap until it comes out cold.

Chris Terry

Hold these dates!

Over the weekend of the 8th and 9th October, we shall be celebrating Harvest and Creation-tide. There will be a lot going on and we look forward to telling you all more about it in next month's magazine but, in the meantime, please make a note of the dates in your diaries!



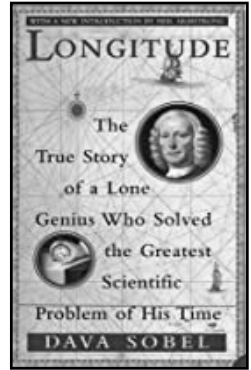
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SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB - WHERE WE ARE NOW

The meeting on Monday 25th July was well attended with nine members, two of whom were new to the group. It was therefore with great pleasure that we welcomed Margaret and Linda to share our reading and our meetings. The group talked about the selected book, *Longitude*, by Dava Sobel. This told the fascinating story of John Harrison's quest to solve the problem of calculating a ship's position using longitude which had proved in earlier times to be impossible to determine. As a result there had been repeated loss of life and ships. Most of the group enjoyed the human story although many of us struggled to grasp the science!



We followed this discussion with a look at what other books were being read and/or recommended. It was an interesting and diverse list though murder mystery seemed to feature quite heavily. The list included:

- Murder before Evensong* by Richard Cole
- Clock Dance* by Ann Tyler
- The Man who Died Twice* by Richard Osman
- Marlow Murder Club* by Robert Thorogood
- Matrix* by Lauren Goff
- The Chirk Castle Killings* by Simon McCleave
- Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce
- plus several books by Ellie Griffiths and by Susie Steiner.

The group was reminded that one of our Book Club reads, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, is now a film and showing in cinemas.

The next Book Club choice is a free choice of any short story or collection of short stories. These will be discussed at the next meeting in St James Church on September 5th. Before then we will be meeting for a sponsored read of some of these short stories. It will have happened by the time you read this, and the proceeds will, we hope, have gone to support the children of recent arrivals in their long and expensive school summer holidays. A pass to go swimming seems to be favourite.

Why not come on September 5th to hear more? We would love to have new members to whom we can demonstrate what simple tastes we have!!

Andrew Guy

WHY ... ASK THE SAINTS TO PRAY FOR US?

All Christians are united to each other because they are united to Jesus Christ through Baptism.

The relationship between Christians does not end with death. Christians believe in life after death. It is said that the Church is like an iceberg, mostly out of sight. (Hopefully it is not cold – but warm and friendly).

Three ways to think about the Church

a) *The Church is 'visible' here on earth*

It is sometimes called 'the Church Militant'. The work of the Church is (to worship God and) to extend the Kingdom of God on earth.

b) *The Church Expectant*

When we die, few are ready to go straight to Heaven. We usually need to be purified and cleansed of our sins. By far the largest part of the Church is unseen.

c) *The Church Triumphant*

This is those who have reached the Heavenly City, called the New Jerusalem.

It is helpful to remember the words of Jesus: *'In my Father's house there are many dwelling places'* (John Chapter 14 verse 2). We exist in time and space, but time does not exist in heaven. *'A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday.'* (Psalm 90 verse 4).

Who is a Saint?

First, we must mention St Mary and the Apostles. Then there are the Martyrs whose blood was shed because of their faith in Jesus Christ. The Letter to the Hebrews says: *'Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses'*

They include those officially recognised by the Church on earth as Saints. Then there are other Saints whose faith is known only to God. They are 'holy'. They have discovered the love of God in Jesus, and they are in heaven.

St Paul begins three of his letters 'to all the Saints' – at Ephesus, Philippi and Colossae. In other words, St Paul is using the word 'saint' for all living Christians.

What is a Patron Saint?

One answer might be – one who guards and guides us. England has St George as it's Patron Saint; Scotland has St Andrew, Wales has St David and Ireland has St Patrick. Churches have their own Saint. Many are dedicated with the name of St Mary.

Some Christians have their own Patron Saint. It may be a name given at Baptism, or a name officially added at Confirmation. Some adopt a Saint of their choice. It is good to get to know your personal Saint and ask him or her to pray for you. Perhaps the most widely used prayer is the Hail Mary, asking Mary: *'Hail Mary ... Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen'*.

WHY ... ASK THE SAINTS TO PRAY FOR US? continued

What is the Communion of Saints?

In the Creed (statement of our beliefs) Christians say: *'I believe in the Communion of Saints'*. Communion means 'sharing' and 'fellowship'. The Saints in Heaven are close to God. They are close to us here on earth. There is only a thin layer which separates life on earth and life in the spiritual world.

There seems to be a network of prayer in the unseen spiritual world. The Saints praise God in Heaven, but they also pray for us here on earth. They are cheering and encouraging us on our pilgrimage until we reach the Heavenly City.

Why do we ask the Saints to pray for us?

It is a natural thing to do. The Saints in Heaven have a better understanding of prayer than we do here on earth. They are not affected by the things which distract us on earth. The prayers of faithful pastors on earth are powerful. How much more powerful are the prayers of the Saints in Heaven.

The Will of God and the prayers of the Saints

Jesus taught us to seek the will of God in our prayers: *'Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven'*. When we ask the Saints to pray for us, it is still about seeking God's will. In our prayers, we are always seeking this, and not our own wishes.

Taken from the Tufton Leaflets Why? Series, written by Father John Pitchford and shared by Margaret Foresheew



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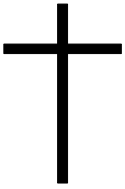
For details about the school contact the PA to the Principal - Mrs G Miles

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Mouse Makes



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and does **not** do them will be like a

The _____ fell,
The floods came and the
_____ blew.

Matthew 7:25



_____ man.
On what did he build
his house?

Matthew 7:24

_____ man.
On what did he build
his house?

Matthew 7:26



Matthew 7:24-27
and
Luke 6:46-49

What
happened
to the
houses?

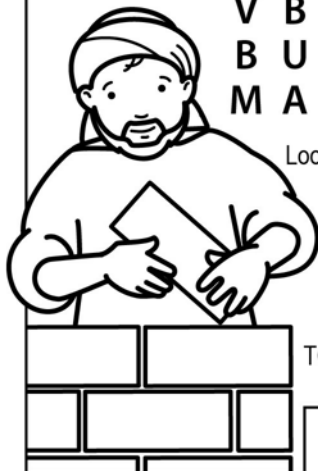
Read
Matthew
7:25 and 27

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



What was
the reaction
of the crowd
to Jesus'
teaching?

Read
Matthew
7:28-29



Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word

F O U N D A T I O N S



THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

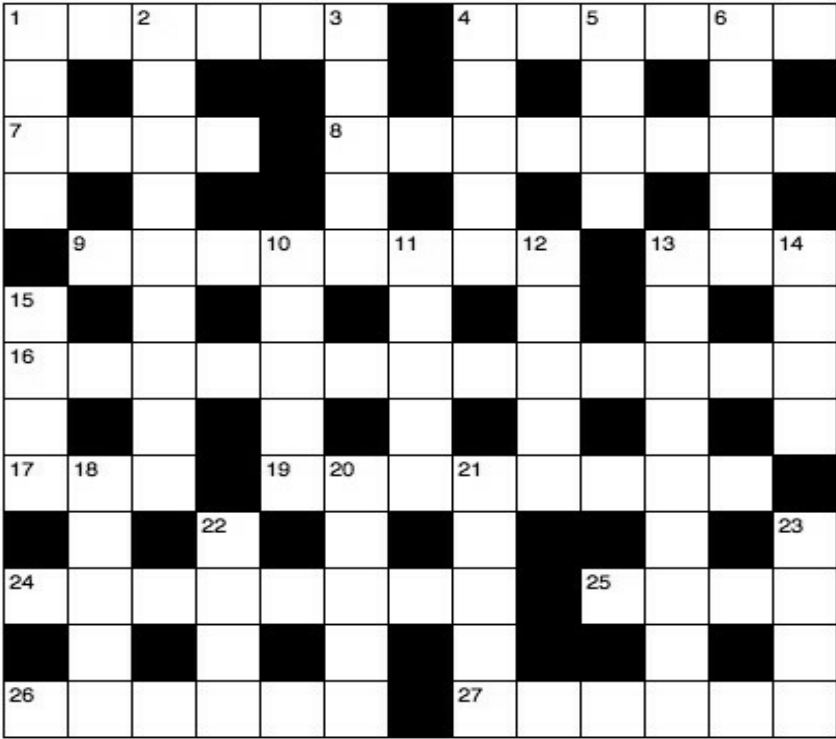
Across

- 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)

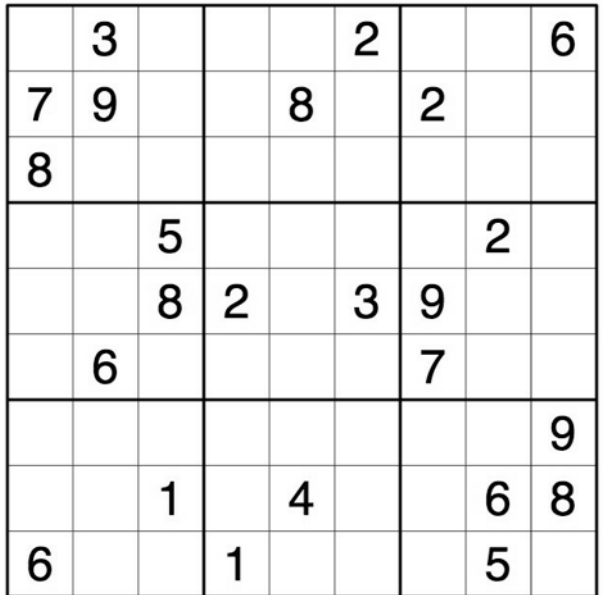
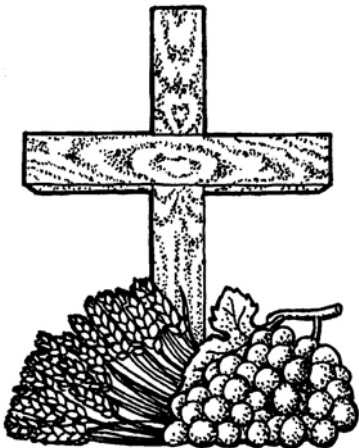
Down

- 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)

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



Answers are on page 31



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WORD SEARCH - THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

Matthew Chapter 13 verses 24-30

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world?

Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to

thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.



Answers are on page 31



BARN
 BUNDLES
 BURNED
 ENEMY
 FIELD
 GATHER
 GOOD
 GRAIN
 GROW
 HARVEST
 HEAVEN
 KINGDOM
 LET
 MASTER
 REAP
 ROOT
 SEED
 SERVANTS
 SLEEPING
 SOW
 TOGETHER
 WEEDS

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



Baptisms

5th June 2022	Elliot Peter Yates
12th June 2022	Amelia Barley
3rd July 2022	Amalie Freya Mary Nelder
16th July 2022	Albie Samuel D'Albert
17th July 2022	Leo Kian Keer-Keer
24th July 2022	Isabel Burns
24th July 2022	Mia Mitcham

Wedding

16th July 2022	Samuel Andrew D'Albert and Katie-Ann Gormley
----------------	---



Funerals

7th June 2022	Katherine Gifford	87
10th June 2022	Valarie Viney	83
22nd June 2022	Pauline Anne Thorne	76
24th June 2022	Jean Mary Bodman	78
12th July 2022	Susan Sparrow	57
15th July 2022	Pamela Elizabeth Collins	85
28th July 2022	Beryl May Cartlidge	93



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email: mhforeshew@gmail.com

Gill Hanton Tel: 0121 733 2347

email: gill.hanton@btinternet.com

Deputy Wardens - St James the Great Church

Kate Crocker

Linda Pitt

Tel: 07562 664163

Tel: 0121 744 6777

Deputy Warden - Christ the King Church

Denise Smith

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Deputy Warden - St John the Divine Church

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