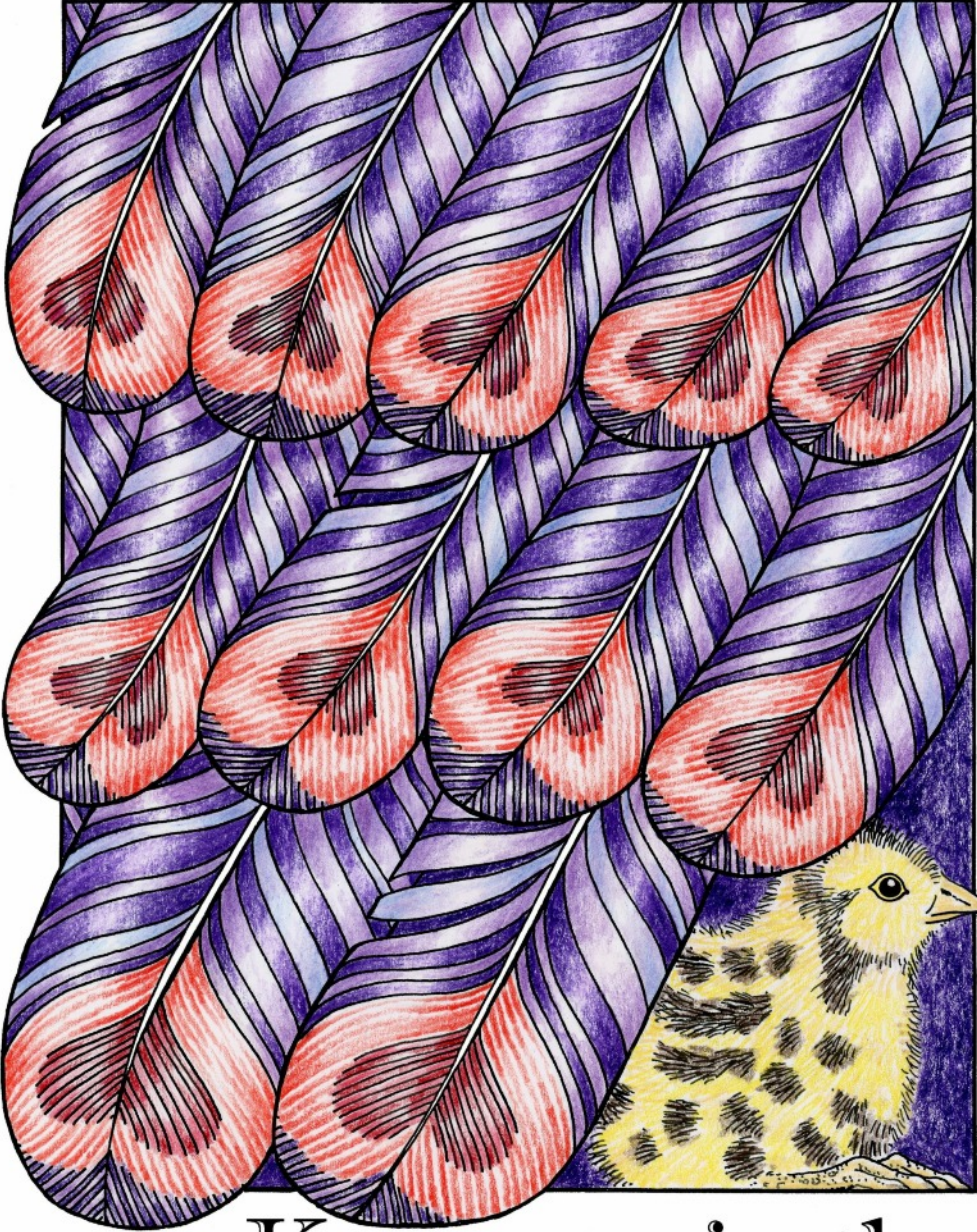


Shirley Parish Magazine

February 2021



shelter of your wings Ps 17:8

Keep me in the

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE

CLERGY

Vicar - Reverend Paul Day

18 Widney Lane, Solihull B91 3LS
email: pgday@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0121 537 9672

Reverend Wendy Carter

134 Shakespeare Drive, Shirley B90 2AR
email: revwendy@sky.com

Tel: 0121 744 6315

Reverend Nick Ball

12 Apsley Croft, Kings Norton, B38 0AF
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Tel: 0121 243 1336

Reverend Theresa Jones

email: theresaj1@btinternet.com

Tel: 01564 822687

SHIRLEY PARISH



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

Telephone: 0121 745 8896

email: admin@shirleyparish.co.uk

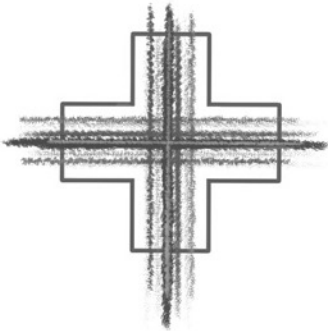
Parish Website: <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk>

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

facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

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

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

WORSHIP WITH US

At home (times suggested however whenever is convenient for you is fine)

Sunday at 10am - Morning Worship on YouTube and on the phone

Sunday at 10.45am - Virtual Coffee via Zoom

Sunday at 7pm (first Sunday of the month) - Reflective Worship on YouTube and on the phone

Thursday at 7pm - Midweek Reflection on YouTube and on the phone (see page 4)

Saturday at 9am - Parish Prayers via Zoom

Third Saturday of the month - Messy Church

The number to dial to listen on the phone is **0121 270 9089**



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A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



Keeping Up To Date

Please read the weekly emails and the pewslip

LOOKING AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

from mentalhealth.org.uk

Sketchnote by @Haypsych

try to avoid speculation and only use reputable sources on the outbreak

good sources:

- Public Health England
- Public Health Wales
- Health Protection Scotland
- NHS
- Gov.uk
- World Health Organization



try to anticipate distress

- acknowledge how you are feeling
- talk to someone you trust if you are feeling anxious
- reassure people you know who may be worried
- check in with people you know who are living alone



try to stay connected

- keep in touch with friends and family
- set up private chat groups on WhatsApp
- increase communication with colleagues working from home in isolation



try to manage how you follow the outbreak in the media

- limit your consumption of the news and social media
- if the news starts to cause you stress and anxiety, take a break from it
- Don't avoid all news as it's important to keep informed and educated about the outbreak



stick to a daily routine

- keep active
- eat a balanced diet
- have a to-do list
- take a lunch break
- have a regular start and end to your working day



if you are in self-isolation or quarantine

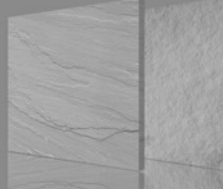
- acknowledge that it is a different rhythm of life
- keep in touch with other people regularly on social media, email, phone, video calls
- create a new daily routine, such as reading more or learning something new
- be gentle with yourself, rest if you need to

MIDWEEK REFLECTIONS ON JOHN'S GOSPEL

February 4th	Chapter 6 Verses 16 – 24	Walking on water
February 11th	Chapter 9 Verses 1 – 7	Healing of the man born blind
February 18th	Chapter 11 Verses 1 - 45	Raising of Lazarus

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MARCH 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY
Friday 12th February please

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Congratulations to the January winners

£50 - Julie Milner £25 - Jean Wall

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

It's around this time of year that we begin to finalise what we are doing as a Parish for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Ash Wednesday is on 17th February and Easter Day at the beginning of April. But with all the uncertainties of the pandemic, it is very hard to plan ahead at the moment.

I don't think that we will be back worshipping in our buildings by Ash Wednesday and I am sure that Lent Groups will have to be 'virtual' groups over Zoom or some other means. However, my guess is that we are more likely to be back in the building for Holy Week and Easter – but only with restricted numbers. It's just possible that the Open-Air service on Easter morning at St John's will be our main celebration!

But there will be a time in the not so distant future when something like normal life can begin again. The Covid vaccine is being rolled out; more and more people will have its protection; restrictions will be slowly lifted. Maybe by the Summer things will be a bit easier.

In the January Reflective Worship Kate challenged us to think about what this 'new normal' would be like in terms of church, community, our relationships and more widely. This is a really important question. The world that we will emerge into will be very different from what it was like last March. And we as churches need to be able to relate to and witness to that world.

We are beginning to make some plans – such as working on getting equipment into the St James building to enable us to broadcast worship over the internet. This will help us keep in touch with those who are housebound or who cannot make Sunday mornings. But there are plenty of other things to consider. Are there some activities which have been great in the past, but have served their time and which would be better leaving behind? Are there better ways of doing things that will help us in our mission as we move forward?

I am proposing using the period of Lent – in sermons and Lent groups – to think about what kind of churches we need to be as we look forward to this new world. How could we better do things and where should our energies and resources be placed.

These could be challenging discussions, but I hope they will be constructive and fruitful, and I encourage you to be part of them.

Reverend Paul Day



Elizabeth House

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A LENTEN PRAYER CHAIN

I'm hoping that you have all read what Liz Yates wrote last month about being part of the prayer chain and how it made her feel. It is also good to know that we have prayed for a number of roads and the people living there across the parish - although our coverage was a bit patchy! We would like to form another chain to take us through Lent so I am currently encouraging you to take part.

What is obvious from questions that I received last time is that I need to make clear exactly what you would be committing to. It is simply this:

On the day that is allocated you receive a phone call from the person before you in the chain. They will ask you about the road that you live in and for any prayer requests for neighbours, friends and family. Later that day they will pray as requested and add a parish prayer that we will be using.

The following day you will phone the next person in the chain and similarly ask for their prayer requests which you include in your own prayers. And so it snakes its way across the parish.

So what may be worrying you?

You live outside the Parish? – that doesn't exclude you, we can still pray for where you live and perhaps you can nominate a road that is in the parish to be included in our prayers.

How will you know when it is your turn? – if you are on email, we will send a message telling you who to expect a phone call from and on what day, who you should phone the following day, with their number and the parish prayer. If you are not on email the information will be delivered.

Will your phone number be made 'public'? – we will only give your number to the person in the chain who needs to phone you.

Will I need to make an expensive call to a mobile phone? – we are asking everyone to use landline numbers wherever possible.

What if I have to phone someone I don't know? – firstly one of the joys of this is that you get to talk to someone you may not normally see, but secondly if this is a real issue for you we can arrange for your calls to be with people that you know.

What if lots of people join, I won't be needed? - Don't worry if more people sign up than there are days in Lent – I have a 'cunning plan' for that.

If you would like to join in our chain of prayer, please ring the Parish Office and let them know before **10th February**.

If you have any queries, please contact **Sarah** on **0121 681 1525**.



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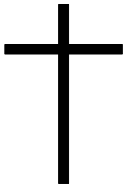
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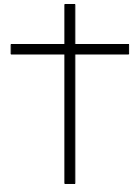
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CARRY ON LIVING - PART THREE

So here I am after living for another year that the specialists didn't seem to think I would see.

I had a lovely holiday with my family and thought that would be it. But it seems God has still got plans for me, even though I now cannot lift my arms up very high and holding a pen or pencil requires effort.

Denise suggested that I make each member of Christ the King Church a Christmas card to remind them that we are still thinking about them and praying for them, and then we would set aside an afternoon and deliver them, which we did. This not only got my hands moving but made me feel useful and lifted my spirits too. Denise said look at what you are still able to do and think less of what you can't do anymore and so it was the best therapy going as it made me concentrate and put all my effort in.

I think back over the year and think about all the loved ones lost to Covid and for other health reasons as well. It really saddens me to think of how these people have coped.

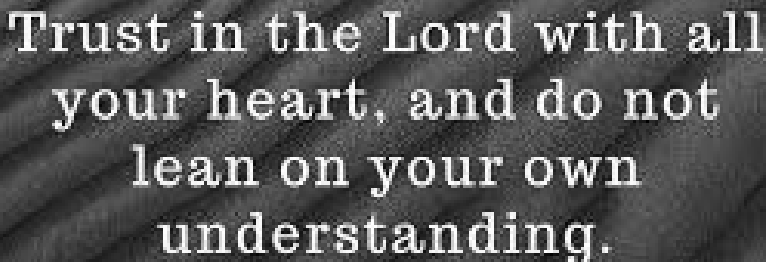
I really have only coped with the strength that God provides me with and with all the kind words and prayers from the people of our Shirley Parish. It simply warms my heart to know so many people are asking about me and praying for me.

So, my heartfelt thanks to everyone.

I don't know how much time here on earth I have left, but then do any of us? One thing I know for sure, is that we should smile and keep on trusting in God.

Love and thanks, God bless you all

Graham Smith (Reader)



Trust in the Lord with all
your heart, and do not
lean on your own
understanding.

Proverbs 3:5



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FOODBANK & ADAVU NEWS

FOODBANK: People were very generous over the Christmas period both with cash and gifts. However, as ever, there are weaknesses showing up in the stock already. These are **tinned fruit, long life fruit juice, dried milk, instant mash, meat soups and small bags of sugar**. Occasional donations of **washing up liquid, liquid soap and toilet rolls** would also be appreciated. As usual, please place them in the collection boxes at Waitrose, Sainsburys and Tesco's. Client numbers continue to rise weekly.



ADAVU: The Christmas presents were a great success - you were very thoughtful and generous. The ladies particularly liked the toiletry bags - these are the net vegetable bags from Sainsburys and M & S (30p) which had fourteen items in each. The basics were – shower gel, toothbrush and paste, soap, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, tissues and whatever else came to hand - sometimes nail varnish and remover (very popular), hand cream etc. It has set me wondering whether instead of a last-minute

scramble to assemble them (and it was!) it would be easier to buy an item occasionally, gradually assembling the contents over the coming months? Do let me know your thoughts please.



Thanks once again for all your kindnesses, stay safe,



Elizabeth Paice

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Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

2020 certainly wasn't the year we expected it to be. It was a challenging year, a testing year. For Mothers' Union it was a year where we said we were going to build hope and confidence.

Well, God certainly gave us the opportunity to do that. How Mothers' Union members responded to the challenges of the year has been nothing short of inspirational.

Early in the year, when it became clear there were significant difficulties ahead, it was members in their kindness who shared hope and gave each other confidence. Mothers' Union as a movement pulled together in late spring to support the Urgent Appeal, raising almost one million pounds overall.

The movement also showed faith in action as members worked tirelessly to produce countless items of PPE for frontline workers and community members. These efforts made a difference in holding up the spread of the COVID-19. These efforts saved lives.

All around the world proud Mother's Union members, took action. This action helped prevent the transmission of the virus. It allowed hope and ushered in much needed confidence. From Papua New Guinea to Canada, from Argentina to Ireland, Mothers' Union has been leading communities and uplifting people the world over.

As we look to what 2021 will bring, we consider the need to take stock and *rebuild* hope and confidence.

In a world blighted by loss of all kinds, the good work of the Lord will be vital. There have been bereavements. There has been the loss of livelihoods. There have been far reaching breakdowns in relationships. There have been areas around the globe where progress has stagnated or gone backwards.

In this wider context, we as Mothers' Union cannot afford to stand still, we must keep well and carry on. And we know our members will. The team at Mary Sumner House are proud to serve such a motivated, devoted, passionate and faithful membership. It is a privilege to work in the service of such a cause.

In 2021 we will *rebuild*, and we will grow, and we will thrive. Mothers' Union will continue to carry out our essential work in God's name.

LITTLE NICK PONDERES ON LIFE TODAY

Does anyone else have the problem of living with a tuneless singer? Well actually she's a tuneless whistler as well. But that sort of breathy noise accompanied by the odd note or word is very annoying. Recently Sarah has been 'treating' us to a strange song about billiard balls. When I asked what she was singing she got all sniffy about opera and quoted the words properly. It is apparently from the Mikado (Gilbert and Sullivan) about a man playing billiards 'On a cloth untrue, with a twisted cue and elliptical billiard balls'.

Why? 'Because that's how the world feels at the moment with people trying to do normal things but not being able to because of what isn't normal'. That didn't make sense to me until I thought of some of the things that I have seen and heard recently that were unusual.

There was the morning when Bernard and Sarah were standing on the front step talking to Kate (Bernard's daughter, not anyone else with the same name) who was the proper two metres away when the postman came. There was no way the postman could get to the door without being too close to all three of them. But did it phase him? No. Luckily, he only had one thing for us and with a deft flick of the wrist it went whizzing through the air and landed at Sarah's feet. It is only time that the Church Times has been delivered here by airmail.

People have been extra considerate. When she was delivering bingo prizes a few weeks ago someone had saved Sarah the last rolo from their prize the time before. (Other chocolate prizes are available). When she 'click and collected' the shop had put her things in a bag because the assistant noticed there was a child's item in there which might need to be hidden from the child it was intended for until Christmas.

And I hope you were as pleased as I was to hear that Father Christmas had been fast-tracked to the very front of the queue for the coronavirus vaccine, because of his age and the importance of his job.

2020 was strange year in which we learnt to Zoom, to video readings and sermons. We have made odd things for Messy Church online, mostly from the middles of kitchen rolls and the back of cereal boxes. We have made giant figures for the crib scene in St James Church porch and just generally made a mess.

How to wear a mask without getting your glasses steamed up has still eluded us, although we have been advised that smearing washing up liquid on the lenses can help. Not sure what happens if it is raining

LITTLE NICK PONDERES ON LIFE TODAY *continued*

So, I want to wish you all 'all the best' for 2021. We don't know what will happen this year, although we are learning to expect the unexpected. There will be moments when we feel like we are playing billiards with a twisted cue and elliptical balls. But hopefully we will learn to adapt our game to allow for these.

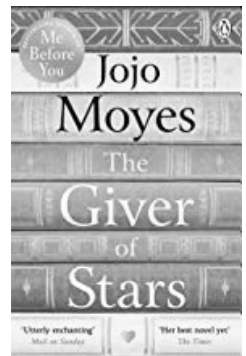
Happy New Year!

Nicodemus Penfold - Parish Raconteur

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN READING THIS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR?

The 'set book' for our Book Club in late November and December 2020 was *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. It's a novel about an English girl who joins Eleanor Roosevelt's book distribution scheme in 1930s very rural Kentucky. It would be fair to say that the book was a huge hit with our readers. Some sample responses:

'I really enjoyed this last book. The feminist theme appealed to me but actually it was the strength of the friendships between unlikely people that was the best part. Also interesting about the whole idea of the libraries, and it had a happy ending without it being too sugary.'



'What a wonderful story about female friendship and plucky women in Eastern Kentucky, still one of the poorest parts of the US.'

'I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The plot, the descriptions and attitudes of the characters were absolutely believable. I have never read any of Jojo Moyes books before this one, I may well be a convert!'

'I loved *The Giver of Stars*. I didn't know about Eleanor Roosevelt's scheme and how it worked in the Kentucky mountains, nor about all those feisty women struggling to overcome 1930s gender stereotyping. All such interesting characters and all based on a true story! A brilliant read in my opinion.'

'At last a book with a happy ending for everyone, well nearly. I really enjoyed it and was sorry when I had to put it down.'

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SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB *continued*

'I really enjoyed this book, the story line and its characters. It is a story that portrays the growth not only of individuals but of a group of mismatched women who gain strength from a newly discovered female unity. All of them defied the conventional stereotypes of their time and place. I enjoyed the way in which the author revealed the narrow minded judgmental attitudes of many towards women, especially in Kentucky during the 30s, and how people's lives could be dominated by the power of the self-appointed and the financially secure. This book for me was more than a romantic western.'

What else?

As well as Jojo Moyes the Shirley Parish Book Club has been giving each other books as presents for Christmas. It's a Finnish idea called *Jokabokaflood!* The books that changed hands are among this much longer list of other books which have offered members a welcome escape from the pandemic:

Go swift and far - Douglas Westcott about an orphan who becomes involved in the redevelopment of Bath after the WW2 bombing.

Two books by Ellie Griffiths about a forensic Archaeologist.

Blue river, Black Sea - Andrew Eames which is about a journey down the Danube.

Behind the Lines - W F Morris. One of the first books to be written after WW1 about WW1.

A Little of What You Fancy - H E Bates - the joys and adventures of the Larkin family.

The three *Wind in the Willows* follow ups - William Horwood. Read these and the pandemic is cleared from your mind!

The Long Earth and five sequels - Terry Pratchett and Stephen Baxter. (SF at its best).

Neverwhere - Neil Gaiman – an adventure and a love story unlike anything you have ever read.

The Agatha Raisin books - M C Beaton (read two)

The Devil and The Dark Water - Stuart Turton – a doomed merchant ship in the seventeenth century.

A Life on our Planet - David Attenborough's memoir.

An Act of Treachery - Ann Widdecombe. Paris under Nazi occupation.

The Beekeeper of Aleppo - Christy Lefteri. A family escaping war in Syria. (Two have read this).

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB continued

The very funny Gervase Phinn books about schools and communities in the Yorkshire Dales.

I have rediscovered John Banville: *The Sea* and *The Untouchable* (Very topical with the death of George Blake too.)

The New Neighbours - Diney Coteloe.

My Garden World - Monty Don

Bletchley Park Brainteasers and *The Ordnance Survey Puzzle Books*.

The English Girl - Katherine Webb

The Paris Secret - Karen Swan.

Honour - Elif Shafak

Ten Minutes and Thirty Eight Seconds in this Strange World – also by Elif Shafak – hypnotic.

Out of the Sun - Robert Goddard. A man discovers a son he never knew he had, and a complex mystery begins.

What next?

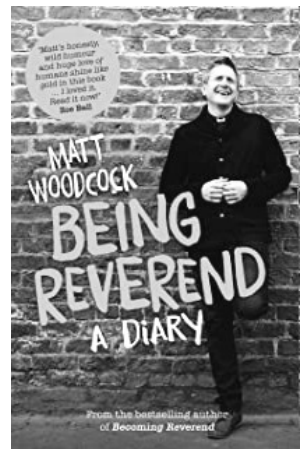
The book for the New Year is *Being Reverend* by Matt Woodcock. It's a personal diary describing a curate's first year at Trinity Church in Hull. It's a worthy follow-on from the Jojo Moyes novel - absorbing, thought-provoking and very funny.

Included in the diary is a prayer – the 'Pioneer's Prayer' attributed to Sir Francis Drake.

The last section goes like this:

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
to venture on wider seas
where storms will show your mastery:
where losing sight of land,
we shall find the stars.*

*We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes;
and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope and love.*



... continued over the page

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB *continued*

Matt Woodcock's diary is a great first read for 2021. It reminds me more than anything of the last lines of Louis MacNeice's *Autumn Journal*. Written in 1939 just as World War Two was beginning, the twenty three part poem has something of Francis Drake's longing, courage and optimism. The poem gives us certainty and something better to look towards from the depths of this pandemic:

To-night we sleep

On the banks of the Rubicon – the die is cast;

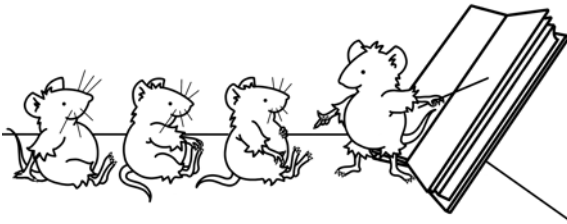
There will be time to audit

The accounts later, there will be sunlight later

And the equation will come out at last.

Autumn Journal XX111

Ray Speakman



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MOVE TO MALAYSIA

Dear Readers

David, Henrietta and Brandyn Starbuck are off back to settle down in Malaysia on the 24th of January 2021. We moved here as a family nearly five years ago to support Brandyn during his time studying for a BSc in Psychology at Aston University.

Brandyn's course was of four years duration as it included a year of work placement which he carried out at the Birmingham Hospital Trust for Mental Health at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and at the Zinnia Centre in Sparkhill. He has now achieved his degree with an award ceremony (by Zoom) on 13th January 2021.

It is interesting to note that David also studied at Aston University, nearly fifty years ago, where he studied electrical engineering on a four-year course which included industrial placement. He was surprised at how much the University has changed in the intervening years.

Henrietta has been busy with her jewellery making business and the Dickens Heath Food & Craft Market which she established here and has proved to be a very successful community event allowing people to socialise and support local entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, the Covid outbreak has forced a temporary suspension of the monthly event.

During our time here in Solihull we have made many very good friends, in particular amongst the congregation members at St James Church where we have been regular attenders until Covid came along. We have had a great time here but now we are returning to be near our first grandson, Christian, who is approaching two years old already, Henrietta's wider family and Brandyn's close friends. To say nothing of the good food and great weather!

We shall really miss you all very much and will hold you in our hearts and prayers whilst in Malaysia. We thank you all for being such a supportive church community since we first started visiting St James nearly ten years ago.

We leave you all in the very good hands of Paul and Kate Day along with the lay staff who do so much to support the church's activities behind the scenes.



David, Henrietta and Brandyn

HOW TO HANDLE TEMPTATION

"I can resist everything but temptation" (Oscar Wilde).

During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.'* (1).

Temptation is a test of *obedience*, whether we do things our way or God's way. After forty days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished by God's Word. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan: Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is often our experience in living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross.

'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!' (Corrie Ten Boom).

HAVE YOU DONE SOMETHING WHICH HAUNTS YOU?

Do you ever worry that your past failings mean that God will not accept you now?

Some of us have done many things which we regret, things that have caused us, or others, great pain.

We've given our children short shrift, we've betrayed our marriage partners, we've been dishonest at work, we've been ruthlessly greedy and ambitious, no matter what the cost to anyone else.

And now the memory of the wrong we've done lingers, and makes us ashamed. Our past failings make us very reluctant to turn to God. Why should He forgive the damage we have done?

HAVE YOU DONE SOMETHING? continued

If you think this way, then you have a big surprise waiting for you: God isn't like that. You haven't yet encountered His GRACE. God knows all about you, and most of all He knows you need His help. Jesus said that He came into the world to reach sinners, to help anyone who turns to Him in true repentance to find forgiveness, and a new start.

You can't do anything to turn yourself into a good person. But you don't have to. All that God asks of you is that you turn to Jesus in prayer, and say you are sorry, and ask Him to forgive you, and to put His Spirit within you. Then you find His GRACE – which means His loving-kindness, beginning in YOUR life. Just try it.

Today let God begin to set you free from the past!

CHURCH HOUSE – BACK GARDEN UPDATE

As many of you may remember plans were put into place last year to develop and improve the area behind Church House. The aim, to have a pleasant area where we can enjoy each others' company in the open air and provide a safe place for children to play.

Grants have been received from The Allchurches Trust and Solihull MBC CIL Fund and with those two grants and our own fundraising we have enough to commence the project and accomplish most of what has been planned.

Further fundraising will be needed to allow us to plant one or two slow growing trees to replace the laurels and provide some planters and shrubs to give some colour.

Our plans will be put to the PCC for approval and then we can instruct our preferred contractor to start work.

If you have any expertise you think may be helpful, planting and landscaping ideas please get in touch.

This is a very exciting parish project, something to look forward to in 2021.

Linda Pitt and Kate Crocker

BEWARE OF THE SCAMMERS

If you get a telephone call or email or text message that you are not expecting and you are not sure if it is genuine, please be very cautious and use another form of communication to check if it is genuine.

Do not click on any links in the email or text message and never give your banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust.

If you think you've uncovered a scam, been targeted by a scam or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

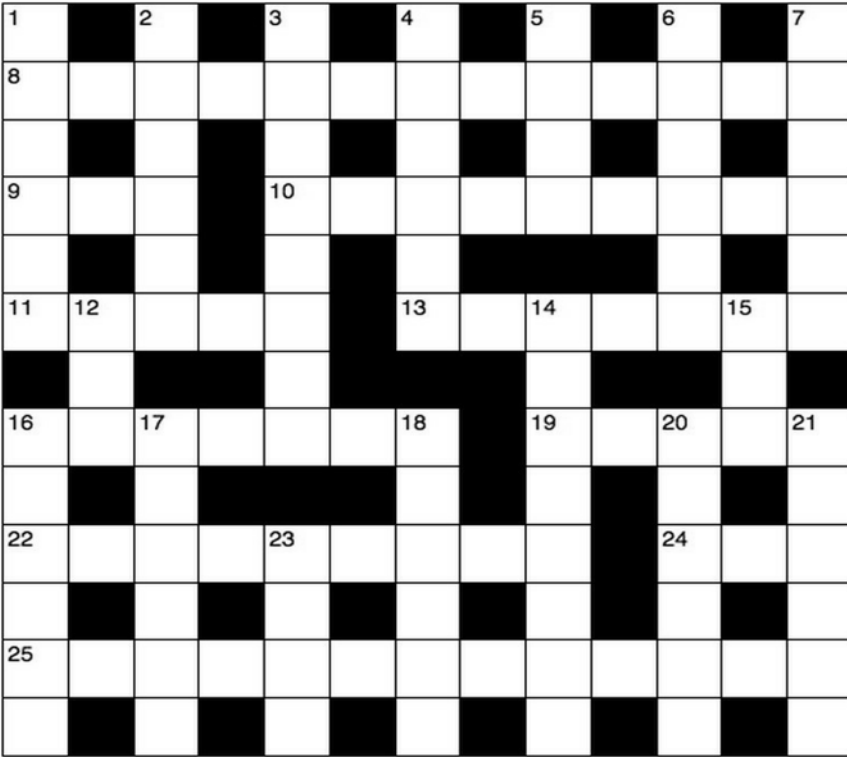
- 8** Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1** Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



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

Answers are on page 27

NATIONAL NESTBOX WEEK – TIME TO HELP YOUR GARDEN BIRDS

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.



National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14th February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes.



Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

HYMNS FOR SEASONED CITIZENS

- The Old Rugged Face
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
- It is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt
- Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
- Amazing Grace, Considering My Age
- Just a Slower Walk With Thee
- Count Your Many Birthdays, Name Them One by One
- Go Tell It On The Mountain, But Speak Up
- Give Me That Old Timers' Religion
- Blessed Insurance
- Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I Parked



FEBRUARY WORDSEARCH

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple.

Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people.

February also celebrates the love between a man and woman: Valentine cards and romance abound.

'Love' as in social compassion is also remembered: Fairtrade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, and National Nest Box Week....

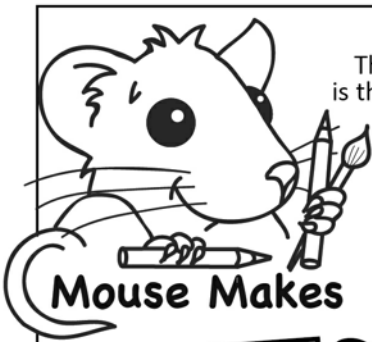
Love is truly needed by everyone!

*Answers are
on page 27*



ANNA
BANANAS
CANDLEMAS
CHOCOLATE
CHRIST
COFFEE
FAIRTRADE
FORTNIGHT
HOLOCAUST
JUSTICE
LEPROSY
LOVE
MARRIAGE
MATTHIAS
NAMING
NEST BOX
POVERTY
ROMANCE
SIMEON
TEMPLE
VALENTINE
WEDDING





WHAT AM I ?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next ...

E				H
• What two things did God create first? <i>Genesis 1:1</i>				
		S		

				G
• What was the Earth without? <i>Genesis 1:2</i>				
M				
• What came before morning? <i>Gen 1:5</i>				

• Who is the creator? <i>Genesis 1:1</i>				
				D
• What was separated from light? <i>Gen 1:4</i>				

• Which day did God finish work? <i>Gen 2:2</i>				
S				
• Who was created God's image? <i>Gen1:27</i>				

				H
• Who moved over the water? <i>Gen 1:2</i>				

I					S
---	--	--	--	--	---

By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **forth** commandment said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.

FIND THE CREATION PAIRS
from *Genesis 1 and 2*

EARTH	MORNING
LIGHT	FRUIT
DAYS	SEA
TREES	NIGHT
LAND	FISH
EVENING	YEARS
ADAM	HEAVENS
DAY	DARK
BIRDS	WATER
SKY	EVE

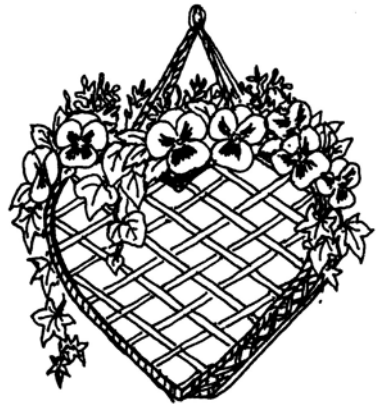
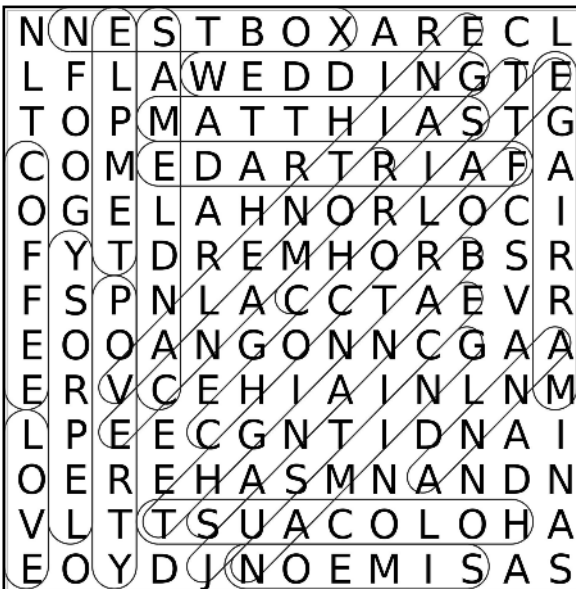
DID YOU KNOW?
The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means creation, origin and generation

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

Can you find these words in the word search?
 GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
 FLY • DEEP • EARTH
 DARK • DAY • LIGHT
 NIGHT • STARS • SKY
 SEA • LAND • BIRD
 CREATURE • HUMAN
 TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
 FRUIT • GOOD • TWO

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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



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The Church of England's Lent resources theme for 2021 is entitled #LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story. It is based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele.

We witness to God's story and the impact this has made to our story so that others might also find their story taking on new meaning in the light of God's love.

While the current restrictions on daily life necessitated by the pandemic present significant challenges, the suffering and isolation many continue to face make the need for us to share God's love with our communities greater than ever. Rather than just being a Lenten discipline, this year's #LiveLent is a joyful invitation to make witness a normal part of the Christian life, the natural overflow of a life lived in devotion to Christ.

There will be six reflections for each week and each reflection will include a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week will have a unifying theme and an action to be taken during the week.

The daily reflections will be available through a booklet which can be bought from Church House Publishing, as well as a free app, emails, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts.

Visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story> to find out more.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE - HELP IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

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PARISH FUNERAL - DECEMBER

1st Delia Margaret Harrison 78

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

22nd February to 7th March 2021

It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south.



In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them.

So this month, why not visit www.fairtrade.org.uk and see how you can send some support.

A PRAYER FOR THE PANDEMIC

Dear Father God,

You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you! We so need Your listening ear at this time – and your help, Lord. Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue. When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us. You are not social-distancing, You are very, very close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for Your special strength and protection for all staff. Thank you for the skills You have given to scientists all over the world. Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring. Most of all thank You for the hope which Jesus brings. This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life. Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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MAKING HIM KNOWN**

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