



# Shirley Parish Magazine

## October 2025

Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace in our hearts,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Paul Judson

# SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

## CLERGY & READERS

### Vicar - in vacancy

#### Reverend Richard Haynes

email: [curate@shirleyparishb90.co.uk](mailto:curate@shirleyparishb90.co.uk)

Tel: 07972 530161

#### Reverend Wendy Carter

email: [revwendy@sky.com](mailto:revwendy@sky.com)

Tel: 0121 744 6315

#### Reverend Dr. Theresa Jones

email: [theresaj1@btinternet.com](mailto:theresaj1@btinternet.com)

Tel: 0121 272 3366

#### Gill Gough

email: [g.gough@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:g.gough@hotmail.co.uk)

Tel: 0121 603 2636

#### Sarah Penfold

email: [penfold633@gmail.com](mailto:penfold633@gmail.com)

Tel: 0121 681 1525

#### Denise Smith

email: [deesmith1181@hotmail.com](mailto:deesmith1181@hotmail.com)

Tel: 07815 193892

### Parish Administration Manager - Emily Ellis

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

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Telephone: 0121 745 8896

Email: [office@shirleyparishb90.co.uk](mailto:office@shirleyparishb90.co.uk)

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

Social Media: [facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90](https://facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@shirleyparish5736>

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4904334906>



## FOR ANY ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE OR THE EDITOR -

Gill Hanton - Telephone : 07973 942145

Email : [shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com)

***Deadline for information and articles for next month's magazine: 12th of the month***

*Whilst every care is taken to ensure that the contents of the magazine are correct, the Parish cannot be responsible for any errors that may occur in the editorial or advertisements, nor for the actions of the advertisers.*

## OUR SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Thursday 2nd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 5th <b>HARVEST FESTIVAL</b>	10.30am 6pm	Parish Communion Reflective Worship	St James Church St James Church
Thursday 9th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 12th	8am 9am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship	St James Church St John's Church St James Church
Thursday 16th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 18th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 19th	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
Thursday 23rd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 26th 	8am 9am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship Worship 4 Everyone	St James Church St John's Church St James Church
Thursday 30th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church

**PLEASE CHECK FOR ANY CHANGES TO OUR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES ON THE WEEKLY NOTICE SHEET OR ON OUR WEBSITE <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk>**

*Copies of the sermons preached at our services can be found on our website - <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/download-a-sermon>*

Sunday Services at St James Church are live-streamed on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@shirleyparish5736>



**WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN -  
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ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW**

## FROM PAUL & KATE

We were overwhelmed by the love you all showed at our final service at St James Church on 31st August. The moment when most of the congregation came forward to pray for us was especially moving and memorable, as are the many messages and cards we received – so thank you!

We would also like to thank everyone for the amazingly generous gift. For those who are unaware, this was a set of excellent binoculars together with vouchers which are redeemable at a number of retailers for more than £1700! We think we will use the vouchers to help furnish our new home when we eventually move – we will try to keep you informed.

We took the opportunity to head off to Holy Island off the Northumberland coast for a week of quiet and reflection following the service. Holy Island has been a place of prayer for many centuries and is best known as the “home” of St Cuthbert. Its one of those “thin places” where earth and heaven seem very close. We had a lovely time of peace and refreshment – a real contrast to all the emotions of that final Sunday. We also had a chance to try out the new binoculars – which were brilliant!

Now we are back our thoughts turn to the future. Selling the house we currently own in Bentley Heath and looking for somewhere new to live, hopefully in Ludlow, will occupy us for a while. Meanwhile we remain in 18 Widney Lane as the Diocese is allowing us to stay here for up to six months – so we may well see you around.

With our love, gratitude and best wishes!



*Paul & Kate Day*



## BODY MASSAGE

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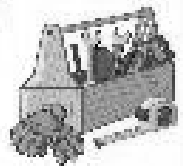
## OUR PRAYER FOR THE TIME OF VACANCY

Heavenly Father,  
 thank you that we are held together as a community in your love.  
 Let us be ready to share the good news of Jesus with those around us.  
 Strengthen us as we patiently wait as a parish,  
 remembering that your Son is the Good Shepherd  
 who will guide us along our future path.  
 May we gently encourage one another,  
 be quick to listen  
 and humbly reach out to support those in need.  
 With everlasting hope,  
 we trust in you alone to provide in this new season.  
 In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Find out more at

<https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/future-ministry-in-shirley-parish>

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## PAUL AND THE PANDEMIC

Paul had only been our Vicar for a short time when the dreaded Covid arrived in our midst.

The way that Paul handled that emergency was phenomenal.

Paul immediately set up a network to ensure that we kept in touch with everyone in our parish. He organised a team of people who each had about six people to ring each week, to check on and see how they were faring, did they need help of any sort, shopping, another call etc. There are lots of people who live on their own and never saw a soul unless a carer called in and they haven't always got time to stay and chat.

Each week the team met over Zoom where we discussed the most at risk and how we could help.

Paul also took the time to call people and speak to those who were really struggling.

Church services went online and after the service coffee moved to Zoom.

When the churches were allowed to open again Paul organised a team of helpers to wipe down the pews and all other items that people would be touching on their way in and out of church to keep everyone safe (and a huge 'thank you' to all those who where on that list of helpers).

We thank him hugely from our hearts for all the work that he did during the time of Covid for all the people of the parish. From there we have grown and flourished.

We remember also the work that he has done on behalf of the community, always welcoming the stranger into the church. So a big 'thank you' to Paul, you will be remembered for your open door policy.

May our Lord be with you and Kate as you settle down to a different way of life.

*Margaret Foreshew*

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## CHANGES - CHALLENGES - CHOICES

24th August 2025 saw the doors close on worship at Christ the King Church which had met at Widney Junior School since 1985.

It was a day of mixed emotions, there were tears, there was laughter, as we shared memories from the past forty years.

We remembered with joy those ministers who helped and guided us on our journey. Starting with the vision of Fr Warwick Whelan who appointed our first vicar, Fr Jonathan Hayes, followed by Fr John Richards, Fr Nigel Jones, Fr Nicolas Lo-Polito, Rev Sue Height, Rev Beverly Watson and finally Rev Paul Day. In between times, when we were waiting for a new appointment, we were faithfully served by Fr Michael Caddy and especially Rev Theresa Jones who committed herself to caring for us in a very long interregnum. Thanks go to you all.

We also remembered friends from the past, those who have spent only a short time of their journey with us, those who have stayed many years with us, and those who have now moved away or passed away.

It was great to see so many people at our last day, especially those who came to our first service all those years ago. We didn't want a great fuss but it was very uplifting and moving that they wanted to support us.

So what happens now, people ask me. Well, as a licensed Reader, and thanks to Paul Day uniting our Parish, I am licensed to the Parish. My work will carry on. I will gladly worship and serve the people at both St James and St Johns. I have found a great welcome and warmth in the congregations of both churches and already can call them friends. I have come to know many over the years and its lovely to meet new people and get to know them. Thank you all for your welcome and friendship.

Its not just Christ the King people who are facing change, challenges and choices, its the whole Parish, we have a vacancy to fill. How long that may take we cannot tell, but many of you have taken up new responsibilities, stepped forward when asked and I thank you all for your responses, your choices made. Our wardens and all leaders need your support now and through the coming months. It will not get easier, our gentle Rev Rich Brooker leaves us at the end of September and our dear Rev Richard Haynes will have his own vocation to consider shortly. I pray that we can all work together, helping and supporting each other.

Please do what you can, accept change, take up the challenge and make the right choices for our future together. Pray for your Church and may God bless us all.

*Gill Gough*

## MOVING ON FROM CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

What a lovely celebration we had at Christ the King, remembering the last forty years of worship in the church which we made up every Sunday morning and packed away again afterwards, a real church out of a cupboard.

There was lots of laughter and tears, as we thought about people no longer with us, either because they had moved on or passed over.

We also reflected that we had the privilege of being the church that started the walk of witness and Messy Church, also Pat's ploughman's lunches and being the only church the other side of the Stratford Road.

I said a big personal 'thank you' to Gill Gough, and the late Trevor, who were literally the big hearts of Christ the King Church, bringing us through all the vacancies we had over the years.

I called us the stepping stone church as clergy were always moving on to another church.

We will be planting an Olive Tree in St James churchyard with a small plaque dedicated to all that our church had achieved over the years.

As we sang 'Bind Us Together Lord' and 'One More Step Along The World I Go' so I shall see you at St James and St Johns. I hope I keep everyone travelling along with me.

*God bless, Denise Smith (Reader)*

## LITTLE NICK SAYS 'GOODBYE' AND 'HELLO'

So August was a month of saying 'Goodbye'.

Firstly we went to say it at Christ the King Church. This was a sad time for me as it was one of that congregation who first brought me from Germany to live with Sarah. Over the years I have been there to all sorts of things; carol services, a pet service (that was scary – even from the top on the piano), lunches, and I have even been baptised at the Sunday School! So, it was horrible to see my friends so sad, even though I understand why this was happening.

But somehow the service was not so sad. People told their memories of things that had happened over the years. They spoke about getting involved, about trying new things, the music group, the services held at Phoenix House, carol singing in the Woodman and the memories brought back the smiles.

And there was cake.





The following week we said 'Goodbye' to Paul and to Kate.

The church was super full. More and more children were squeezing into the prayer chapel to make a goodbye card, I had to duck when we sang 'Big Family of God' because there were arms waving about everywhere. There were so many people that giving out the communion took a really long time, and that was with Rich and Gill looking after the back of the church.

When the service was nearly over we all went to the front to pray for them, for whatever happens next. There were gifts, cards and sashes and lots of tears. Then amazingly they did the Morris dance again, like they had at St John's fete, and the tears turned to laughter.

And there was cake.

But its not all been about goodbye. We have also said 'Hello'.

Officially to Lottie Hogan who somehow managed to get one of the final slots in Paul's diary for a baptism. We had just come from the final service at Christ the King Church, so I thought we might all be sad, but Sarah reminded me that life can be like that – a mix of happy and sad. And it was good to see Alfie and Hattie making promises as her godparents.

And there was cake. (So much that some of it went to the Welcome Café on Tuesday!)

And a sort of formal 'Hello' to Gordon who led a morning for the congregation to think about what they would like our parish to be like in the next few years. Someone disrespectfully called it 'Design a vicar day'. Well not really but you get the idea.

We did already know Gordon, and I know that he will be taking some services, as will some other people we already know and some new faces for us to say 'hello' to too.

There wasn't cake but there were M & S chocolate biscuits.

More of us will be saying 'Hello' to the people who had been going to Christ the King Church as they come to the services at St Johns and St James.

And sharing the biscuits with them.

*Nicodemus Penfold (Parish Raconteur – still trying to retire)*

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## MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

We welcomed Dr Kate Crocker to our September meeting for her PowerPoint talk on 'Life as a G.P.'

For as long as Kate could remember she always wanted to be a doctor, and this was nurtured by her maternal and paternal grandmothers. Both her grandmothers were hardworking people from Bloxwich who were actively involved within their local community. One of her grandmothers kept a book of remedies and treatments and Kate holds happy memories of reading this book. Her father was also very keen on education, both she and her sister received tremendous encouragement from him.

On leaving school Kate trained at Girton College, Cambridge and St Mary's, London and then back to Cambridge for her finals. Kate started her general practice as a locum in Studley before moving to Solihull/Heartlands to specialise in paediatrics and into general practice in Birmingham. Besides paediatrics she has other special interests including diabetes and respiratory medicine. After 41 years Kate took the decision to hang up her stethoscope due to increasing family commitments. She continued to do locum cover in retirement and then Covid vaccinations.

During Kate's time, surgery life was vastly different from today – there was no appointment system just long patient waits in the waiting room, no nurses, no consultation by telephone and nighttime call outs, a distant memory.

Kate spoke with such passion and love of a totally fulfilled career, thank you for the fascinating insight.

Throughout her career Kate's faith has always sustained her. Kate is the Deputy Warden for St James; a very time-consuming role, always with a smile on her face.

Three new MU members Dorothy Needle, Pauline Pederson and Peggy Eden were enrolled by Rev Wendy Carter into our branch, a warm welcome to them.

Our next meeting on the **1st October** will be Mary Bodfish for a talk on 'Lest We Forget'.

All our meetings are held in Church House on the first Wednesday in the month.

Visitors are always welcome.

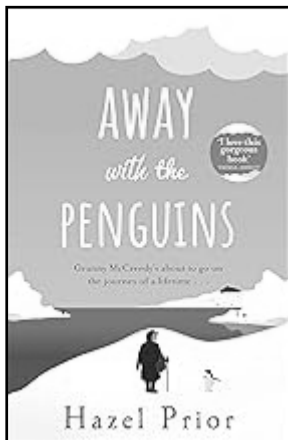
*Susan Knight*

## THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

**Congratulations to the September winners**

**£50 ~ Doug Golightly    £25 ~ Brian Hollings**

## SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB



### **Away with the Penguins by Hazel Prior**

This book was very well received by our club, everyone picked up the message about climate change.

The main theme is all about decisions and missed chances and how life turns out when these choices are made and what might have happened if another choice was made. It was also about building bridges and revisiting relationships with people and maybe environments.

It was also about intergenerational relationships, and that it's never too late to change things. Very like the penguin community that the main protagonist in the book goes to see. A penguin chick is rescued and his life is very like the characters in the book.

This is the first in a series of three books, and one of our members had read all three, encouraging the rest of us to do the same.

Our next book is **The Secret Collector** by **Abigail Johnson**.

On **Monday October 13th** at 2pm in Church House the author of this book, Abigail Johnson, who lives locally, is coming to talk about her book.

Please do come along and join us, whether you have read the book or not ... refreshments provided.

*Belinda Piasecki*



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## FOODBANK APPEAL

Hello, everyone.

I know that I wrote a "Farewell" letter when David and I decided to retire from most of our activities with the charities which we have helped with your superb support for many years.

However, recently we had cause to visit the warehouse where the food bags are prepared for distribution to the Food Banks.

We were horrified and very alarmed to see how low the stocks of food are currently. Where we would have expected the central floor of the warehouse to have pallets of tins and packets waiting to be dated and sorted - there were NONE! The situation is so bad that it is hard even to fill the bags to the very basic lists which are suggested for each individual/family.

The two problems are;

1. Donations are down
2. the requests for help are going up

The shortages seemed to be across the board whether it be tinned meat, fish, fruit, tea, coffee, soups - everything.

Hopefully, there will be a very slight increase in donations this month when Harvest Festivals usually bring in extra supplies, but that will only be a very temporary help. What we really need to do is to spread the word about how dire the situation has become and ask folks to increase/resume their donations.

If I were pushed to guess at the reasons for the increase in requests for food parcels, I would suggest both the increase in rents because of the dearth of housing, and the chronic shortage of jobs for those desperate to work.

Do you remember when we used the slogan "Every tin counts" - perhaps we could use that again?

*With best wishes to you, Elizabeth Paice*

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## AFTERNOON COMMUNION ON 10th SEPTEMBER

I have just returned from Church having participated in a lovely service held for those of us who cannot normally go to church, but we always hope more people will come so if you're free next time then do come along. If you don't come you won't know what you're missing.

Thank you so much for all involved because the service itself was beautiful and it was great having the social "tea and cakes" event afterwards. I found some words in the service really exhilarating, "Yesterday has gone, tomorrow has not yet arrived so live for today". I think it is such a good time to remind us of this and I shall try and concentrate on these words in future.

Rich conducted the Service which of course is his last one so it was tinged with sadness, but we all wish him well in his future life. Our loss will be his new church's gain.

He has constantly given me lifts to and from Church but while I am very grateful for the lifts I will miss the conversations we have enjoyed during our short journeys and I will always remember when he put on a recording of "All things bright and beautiful" which we sang on the way home.

Paul was no longer present of course but everything went very smoothly and the Church members who took part did splendidly. We must not forget the kind and willing "taxi drivers" who so willingly gave their time (and petrol) to fetch us and take us home.

I saw Pam who has now become my new friend and I look forward to seeing her in December at the next service. It is so lovely making new friends and I must congratulate the lady who has volunteered to play, amongst other things, Scrabble. What a lovely Christian gesture to offer to visit people in their homes, I hope people take her up on her kind offer.

We had our usual tea and cakes after the service and the cakes were as usual scrumptious. I had one with peaches in and nut flakes on top, it was absolutely delicious and I had to force myself not to eat extras! Being diabetic I have to restrict myself.

Well, we have another service to look forward to on December 3rd so put the date in your diaries folks, maybe some more may join us then.

Talking of December, I have started my present shopping already. I haven't got a family I have a tribe so I must start early. I love them all dearly though and wouldn't change them for the world.

*God Bless you all, Mary Hayes*

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## LESS IS BEST

My husband will tell you that I have a wardrobe bulging with clothes but can never find anything suitable to wear - shame on me!

The following quote, from Patrick Grant, Savile Row tailor and presenter of "The Sewing Bee", shocked me:

*"We have enough clothing on the planet right now to clothe the next six generations of the human race."*

So what sort of carbon footprint am I leaving on the planet? It's not something I have given much thought to in the past - but being an avid fan of BBC's programme, "The Sewing Bee", I became aware of presenter Patrick Grant's mission to educate us about fabric quality, about how much we use and about how we should re-use fabric. And in Shirley Parish, we are doing well to make fabric carrier bags for the Foodbank out of pre-loved fabrics, thus cutting down on the use of plastic bags - so two ways of reducing our collective carbon footprint.

Patrick Grant's book, "Less..." recommends having a few good quality items to wear until they wear out rather than many cheaper ones that will be frequently replaced and made from fabrics that will be harmful to the planet. In an online video on sustainable fabrics, he encourages us to look at the labels to see what the fabrics are made of, whether from new or, preferably, from charity shops. Every fabric deserves to be reused and he lists the most earth-friendly as -

Linen - the best of all

Cotton - but needs a lot of water to grow

Wool

Viscose - which biodegrades well.

And even when we buy from a charity shop (recycled), is what we buy **recyclable**?

Food for thought indeed. And do come to the Green Fair on 4th October to understand more about carbon footprint ... and much more.

*Chris Speakman - On behalf of the Parish Eco group*

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## A VISIT TO LLANDUDNO

During a recent holiday in Llandudno I took part in the church community held on the promenade where we sang hymns hosted by United Beach Missions.

I was impressed with how many young people were involved. Their ages ranged from about 15 upwards. These young people volunteer for a couple of weeks each year to help with reaching out with the Gospel to the local people and holiday makers. It is exhausting work as not only do they come along in the evening but each morning and afternoon you find them on the beach where they involve children of all ages participating in games, crafts and 'build the best sand castle' competitions.

I write this as we are often grumbling about our young people and I thought that you may like to hear about the work of this organisation.

This reminds me of a recent deanery meeting I attended, where we heard the testament of a young parishioner, Rachel Gidney from Lickey Parish. From an early age Rachel has felt called by God to be a Missionary. During her school and university summer holidays she volunteered in Kenya. Now aged 23 and a qualified primary school teacher, Rachel moved to Kenya on 5th September to serve with ICFEM Mission through TeachBeyond. You can receive Rachel's monthly newsletter by email [rgidney@teachbeyond.org](mailto:rgidney@teachbeyond.org) or follow her on Facebook.

Let's remember Rachel in our prayers and all the other young people who are reaching out to all ages with the Good News.

*Margaret Foreshow*

## GREETINGS FROM LIZ BLAKEY

Well ten weeks and still not back on my perch!

It's been helped by all the kindness and good wishes sent and it was lovely to see you all at Paul's presentation service. I hope it won't be too long before I'm with you all again.

*With blessings, Liz Blakey*

## CRAFT CLUB IS BACK ...

As requested, Craft Club started again on the 23rd September, and will be fortnightly on Tuesdays after the Welcome Cafe.

There will be a charge of £3.00 per session to cover the costs of materials. Soft drinks and biscuits will be included.

However, the continuation of the club is dependent on numbers. Hope to see you. Any queries to Jan on 07969 326531.



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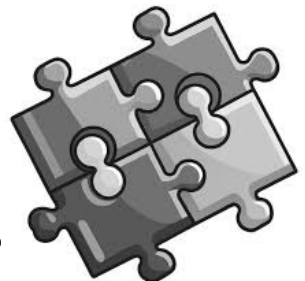


**10.30am until 12noon**

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**with Coffee & Cake**

**Saturday 25th October**



## COMMISSIONING THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM AT ST JAMES SCHOOL

On Wednesday 10th September, I had the joy of visiting Tudor Grange Primary St James Academy, our church school, to join the new principal, Mrs Duxbury, in commissioning this year's chaplaincy team. These Year 5 pupils take on a range of responsibilities throughout the school year: writing prayers for Collective Worship, setting out benches and chairs for assemblies, operating the computer, and sometimes mopping up the water I knock over on the stage. Also, they help plan end-of-half-term services which include prayers they've written themselves and music they've chosen with great enthusiasm and wisdom.

Each pupil who joins the team writes a letter to the principal explaining why they want to serve and what they believe the role involves. Their thoughtfulness and sincerity are always striking.

This year, eight children were commissioned with the following words:

*Loving God, thank you for [children's names] and their call to serve as chaplains in our school. I commission you as the new chaplaincy team for this year. May you be brave like Saint James, faithful in prayer and joyful in love. May you have wisdom to listen, courage to challenge kindly, and hearts that shine with light. Bless your journey as you help others to grow in faith.*

Please do keep the St James chaplaincy team in your prayers. I hope we'll welcome them to one of our church services during their time in post.

We give thanks to God for the deep and joyful connection we share with our local schools. Through chaplaincy, worship, and shared moments of learning, we glimpse the Kingdom of God growing among us—in curiosity, kindness, and the courage of young hearts.

*Rev'd Richard Haynes*

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October invites us to honour the stories, struggles, and triumphs of Black communities across the UK and beyond. This year marks 60 years since the Race Relations Act - a landmark moment in the journey toward justice and equality. We remember those who stood firm: activists, parents, pastors, and pioneers who challenged injustice and shaped a more compassionate society.

As a Church, we are called to be part of that legacy. The Bible reminds us that *"there is no longer Jew or Greek ... for all are one in Christ Jesus"* (Galatians 3:28). Black History Month is not only about remembrance - it's a call to action. A call to listen, to learn, and to stand alongside those whose voices have too often been silenced.

The roots of Black History Month lie in the United States, where Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 to promote scholarly research into Black history. In 1926, Woodson launched 'History Week' in February, dedicating a week to celebrate the achievements of African Americans in schools and communities. Amid the Civil Rights Movement, this observance expanded into a month-long celebration, culminating in President Gerald Ford officially recognising 'Black History Month' in February 1976, calling Americans to honour contributions of Black citizens to the nation's history.

A decade later, community activists brought the concept to the UK. In October 1987, eighteen months after the abolition of the Greater London Council, figures such as Ansell Wong of the London Strategic Policy Unit and Lambeth Council leader Linda Bellos partnered with ethnic minority groups to inaugurate Britain's first Black History Month. The launch at the Commonwealth Institute featured guests like Sally Mugabe, and the choice of October allowed organisers to distinguish the UK observance from the American one, anchoring it to local calendars and seasonal rhythms.

Ghanaian activist Akyaaba Addai-Sebo, who arrived in the UK in 1984, played a pivotal role in co-ordinating the inaugural 1987 events across London boroughs. His work, alongside grassroots organisations, helped establish Black History Month as an annual fixture, empowering communities to reflect on the legacies of colonialism, the Windrush generation, and ongoing struggles for racial justice. Through seminars, exhibitions, and performances, Addai-Sebo's vision ensured that Black history would remain a living, evolving conversation in British public life.

Since its inception, Black History Month has migrated beyond London to cities and towns nationwide, embraced by schools, museums, workplaces, faith communities, and cultural institutions. Each October's annual theme - this year, "Standing Firm in Power and Pride" - invites fresh exploration of historical narratives and contemporary issues. As participants engage with talks, art installations, and community projects, they continue to write new chapters in the story of Black Britain, deepening our collective journey toward equality and inclusion.

More information about this month's theme "Standing Firm in Power and Pride" can be found here <https://birminghamblackhistorymonth.co.uk/black-history-month/>

*Rev'd Richard Haynes*



## THE BISHOPS' PRAYER NETWORK

On 1st September Bishop Michael and Bishop Esther launched a Prayer Network.

They believe that God is calling us into deeper prayer for our city, our churches, and our communities. The Bishops' Prayer Network is made up of committed intercessors, people whose longing to see lives changed, justice restored, and the name of Jesus lifted high across Birmingham and beyond is expressed through prayer.

This is about building a culture where prayer isn't just something we do, but the heartbeat of our diocese.

***We are looking forward to Bishop Esther leading and preaching at our Parish Communion Service at St James Church on Sunday 2nd November - hope to see you there!***



## 31st OCTOBER - ALL HALLOWS EVE – OR HOLY EVENING

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

## THE FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT

As we remember St Luke this month, let's note that one of the major themes in his gospel is prayer. Jesus tells the *Parable of the Friend at Midnight* (Luke 11:5-8) in the context of teaching His disciples to pray (1).

### **Pray Shamelessly:**

In the parable a man approaches his friend at midnight and asking: *'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'* (5-6). Despite the hour, the rules of hospitality mean that this is not an unreasonable request. Jesus says, *'though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will rise and give him whatever he needs'* (8). Jesus is telling us to approach our heavenly Father in *'shameless boldness'* with our needs. As adopted children we should have no hesitancy in coming to talk with our Father. It is not God who is reluctant to answer, but we to ask. Do we pray with shameless boldness?

### **Pray Persistently:**

Like children we should be persistent in our requests: *'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.'* (9). All three verbs indicate a continual habit: *'Keep on asking...seeking...knocking'*. We will not be content simply to ask once and then move on. Jesus tells us to bring our prayers to God persistently. Do we give up too easily in prayer?

### **Pray Expectantly:**

*'For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.'* (10). Are we expectant in our prayers, believing that God delights in meeting our requests?

Why not begin this adventure of prayer today!



## **Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James** *Nurture, Learn, Achieve*

**Principal - Mrs G Duxbury**

For details about the school contact the PA to the Principal - Mrs M McDaid

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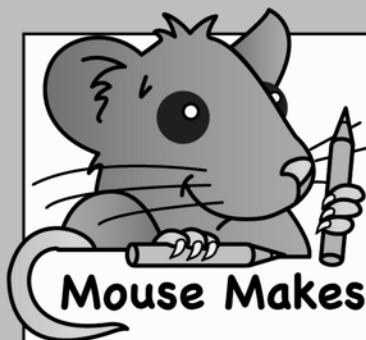
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## Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...  
The **land yields** its harvest, God,  
our God **blesses** us."

- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the  
**Lord** with your  
wealth and the  
first part of  
your **harvest**."

- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.  
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains  
at the right time. He makes sure that we  
have the harvest at just the right **time**."

- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from  
heaven and good harvests  
at the right times. He gives  
you plenty of **food** and  
fills your hearts with **joy**."

- from Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not  
important, and the one who **waters**  
is not important. Only **GOD** is  
important because He is the one  
who makes things **grow**."

- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the  
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## HARVEST WORDSEARCH

October brings us Harvest Thanksgiving, when we thank God for all the bounty of Creation. If you ever doubt God's generosity towards us, just stroll down the aisles of your local supermarket: they are groaning with food of a vast variety, of every colour, texture and taste that you can imagine. Our God is a hedonist when it comes to food - He could have provided just a few basic edible things for us to eat; instead, the choice seems endless. But in the midst of all this bounty, take time to remember all the millions of people worldwide who are starving this month, desperate for any kind of food. Before God in prayer, decide how much you can give this month to one of the many charities who are trying to help people in need, and be generous.



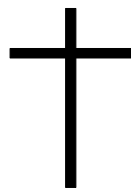
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 HELP  
 MILLIONS  
 OCTOBER  
 PRAY  
 STARVING  
 SUPERMARKET  
 THANKSGIVING  
 VARIETY  
 VAST

*Answers are on page 28*



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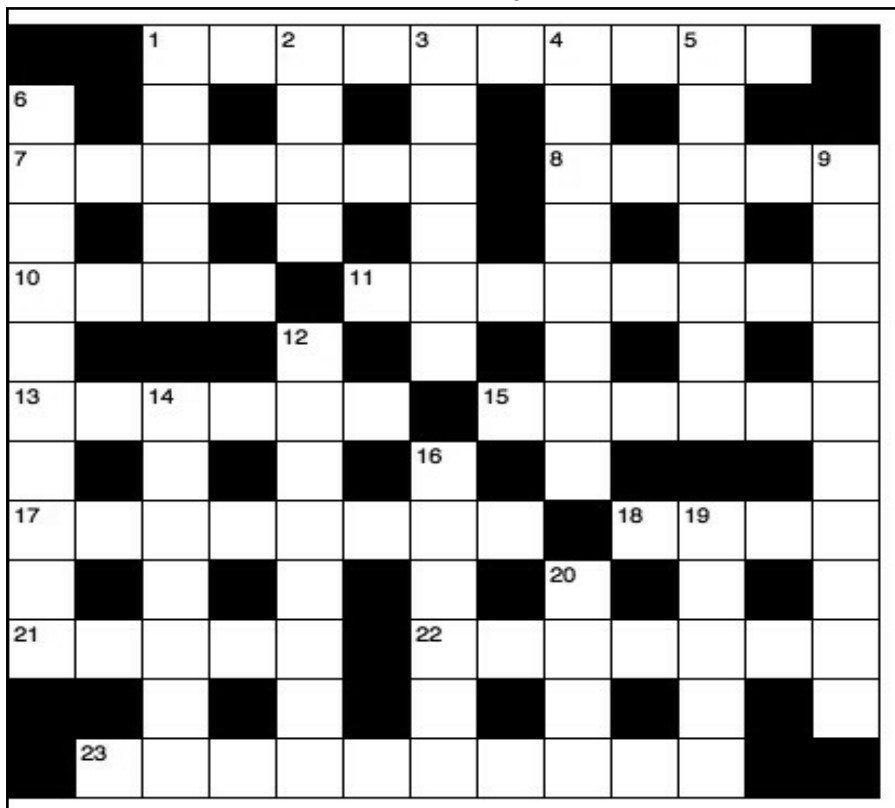
## CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

### Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross'  
(Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet'  
(1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"'  
(Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

### Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!'  
(Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man'  
(Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across



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Answers are on page 33

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- Medication support
- & so much more



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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## PARISH REGISTERS - AUGUST

### Baptism

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### Funerals

8th David Blizard

15th Sylvia Burton

26th Jaqueline Parker



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Gill Hanton Tel: 07973 942145  
email: gill.hanton@btinternet.com

#### Deputy Warden - St James the Great Church

Kate Crocker email: kate\_crocker@hotmail.com  
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#### Deputy Warden - St John the Divine Church

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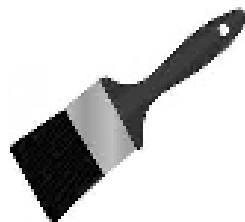
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