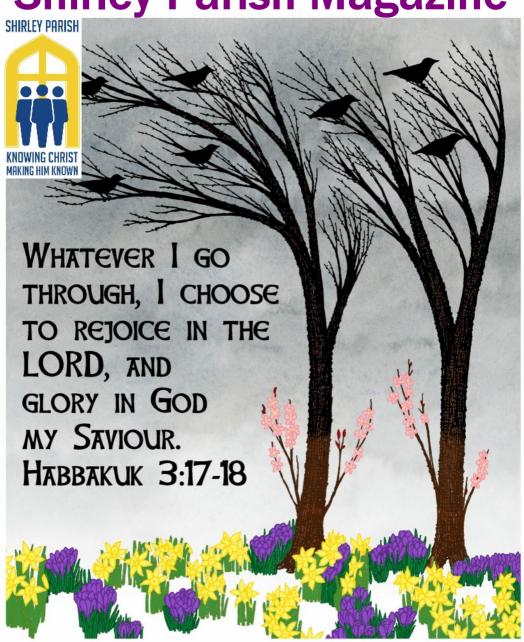


February 2023

**Shirley Parish Magazine** 



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

#### **Vicar - Reverend Paul Day**

18 Widney Lane, Solihull B91 3LS Tel: 0121 537 9672

email: pgday@hotmail.co.uk

**Reverend Wendy Martin** 

email: wendy164@btinternet.com Tel: 07543 829571

**Reverend Wendy Carter** 

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**Reverend Dr. Theresa Jones** 

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

Telephone: 0121 745 8896

Email: admin@shirleyparish.co.uk

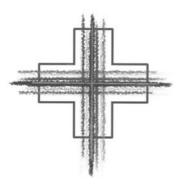
Parish Website: https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk

Social Media: twitter.com/@ParishB90

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

PARISH OFFICE

is open Monday to

Friday (except Bank Holidays)

9.30am - 12.30pm

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

# SURELY IT CAN'T BE LENT ALREADY – I'VE ONLY JUST GOT OVER CHRISTMAS!

I am writing this on 7th January and thinking about Lent before we have celebrated Epiphany seems a little wrong but needs to be done as Ash Wednesday falls on **22nd February**. There will be a communion service with imposition of ashes to mark the start of Lent at 7.30pm on Ash Wednesday at St James Church.



During Lent we will be running Lent groups — exact details have not been finalised as yet but there will be at least one daytime group and an evening group. We will be picking up on the material that the Church of England is producing, material which goes under the title of **Dust and Glory**.

This material will help us explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life. Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that everyday life brings. Rather than pretending we can always avoid these frustrations, the course will help us learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

The course is based on the Archbishop's Lent book for 2023 - *Failure: What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up* written by Bishop Emma Ineson. As in the past couple of years we will have booklets (and an app for those who prefer) with daily readings and reflections which accompany the course – so even if you can't get to one of the weekly sessions you can still take part.

More details will follow soon – keep an eye out on the weekly pewslips!

**BUST** GLORY Reverend Paul Day

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### **MARCH 2023 PARISH MAGAZINE**

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY
Sunday 12th February 2023

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#### **OUR PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Parochial Church Council (or PCC) is an elected body which oversees all the activities of the Parish of Shirley. Its members are de facto the Trustees of the Charity which is officially known as Shirley Parochial Church Council. The PCC meets around four times a year and has various sub-committees which cover different areas of Parish life — Buildings and Finance; Mission, Ministry and Pastoral; Events and EcoChurch. Each of these committees also meet around four times a year. PCC members are expected to be on at least one committee — committees can also include church members who are not on the PCC.

PCC members are elected at the Annual Meeting of the Parish. Anyone who is on the electoral roll of the Parish can vote or stand as a candidate. Please don't think that because you have not been worshipping in one of the churches for long you can't be on the PCC – it is refreshing and vital to have new members with new and different ideas. The Annual Meeting is also a time when we can together reflect back on the past year and plan and pray for the year ahead.

If you are not sure if you are on the electoral roll, then have a word with Margaret Foreshew – she will be very pleased to sign you up!

The Annual Meeting this year will be after the Parish Service on **Sunday 7th May** – why not put that date in your diary now?

Reverend Paul Day



## 

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Thanks to Shirley Lions' donation it was possible to give fresh food vouchers to the Adavu clients to boost their Christmas food purchases - £5 went to each individual and two £5 vouchers to a family. They were delighted and very grateful, not only for those but also the generous Christmas Gift Tree parcels organised by Sarah Penfold, and Caroline Russell who led the Shirley Methodist Church's team.

There are two more babies on their way to ladies being supported by Liisa and her team. I have the two Moses baskets but am on the hunt for **new-born size clothing** – in good condition (both boys we think), **nappies and baby toiletries**. All donations will be gratefully received by the To Be Mums.

Many thanks for your frequent support,

Elizabeth Paice



# Mothers' N

Our next monthly meeting will be the A.G.M on Wednesday 1st February at 2pm in Church House.

The annual subscription for 2023 of £29.00 is now due, payment to the Treasurer would be appreciated as soon as possible please.

We will be welcoming Rowena Nicholls, Diocesan Trustee to our meeting on Wednesday 1st March.

All our meetings are held in Church House at 2pm on the first Wednesday in the month except for the August meeting.

Visitors are most welcome to any of our meetings.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT TO ST JOHN'S?

If you have been to or past St John's Church recently you will have noticed that the area next to the church is fenced off.

A planning application has been submitted to Solihull Council for permission to demolish the bungalow (number 174) and the former Italian Restaurant and to build three houses on the site.

If you are interested in finding out more the plans can be viewed at

https://publicaccess.solihull.gov.uk/online-applications

The Planning Application number is PL/2022/02545/PPFL





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

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# WAR, HUNGER, COLD ... AND HOPE – BISHOPS LOOK AHEAD AND SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

With a focus on food banks, warm spaces, community, the war in Ukraine, and migration, bishops across England have shared messages of hope for the coming year.

The Bishop of Lichfield, Michael Ipgrave, has highlighted not only many churches will be open for services, but also as a warm, heated space for those who need it.

"The instinct to welcome people into our own space is deep within us as human beings," he said. "And the welcome we give, or fail to give, to people who are cold, hungry, struggling with finances today says so much about our own society."

The Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, looked back on 2022 as a year of upheaval and "of seismic proportions ...the loss of our beloved late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II."

"The shadow of Covid-19 remained with us and we heard stories of the lasting impact of the pandemic, especially through Long Covid, [and] the effects of lockdown on children's and adults' mental well-being," she added.

"But we have also seen compassion in action as thousands of families offered to share their homes with those Ukrainian families who have been lucky enough to get visas. We also saw our churches working with many charities to offer support by way of warm community spaces; assisting with language lessons; providing clothing and food."

"Indeed, the words of our Lord came into their own: 'I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink, naked and you clothed me, sick and in prison and you visited me.' Thank you for your part in this."

The Bishop of Chelmsford, Guli Francis-Dehqani said: "As we begin another year, with all the uncertainty that continues raging around us, and with continued worries about the cost of living and the changing nature of the church, it's perhaps worth remembering that the same Christ child who drew kings and magi to His crib is the one who invites us to follow Him still today."

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#### **SAD ANGEL**

A sad little angel sat on a cloud Salt tears rolled down her face Her sobs so sad and very loud They echoed throughout space.

God's hand reached down from heaven above And wiped away her tears "oh why so sad my little love? There's nothing here to fear"

"I am scared that I will fall And tumble trough dark space No one to hear my frightened call Or see my worried face"

"I am your father upon high I will never let you fall You are safe in heaven's sky I will always hear your call"

Little angel's found the cure No longer sad and scared. She is very very sure Her Heavenly Father cares.



Myra Taylor

#### **STORIES!**

I confess to a mild addiction to The Archers, the long running radio 'soap opera' about a farming community in a county which sounds and feels remarkably like Worcestershire. I'm not sure if it still does, but for many years it carried the sub-title of "an every-day story of country folk".

Like most soap operas, the things which happen to its long-suffering characters are many, varied, and largely unlikely to happen. But that doesn't stop it from tackling some really weighty topics, in amongst the romances, quirky characters and comic misunderstandings which are the bread and butter of any good soap.

In recent years the plot has taken us "inside" domestic abuse, modern slavery, mental breakdown and rural poverty in a surprising and compelling way. Of course, none of us — like the characters in the story — would ever doubt a pleasant local builder who was generously offering to provide the labour so the village playground could be refurbished, would we? Or who gave "mates rates" to the church when repairs needed to be done? Yet, somehow, the scriptwriters took the listeners into the place where we found that all was not as it seemed. "I'd never have believed that modern slavery could be happening here, in *our village*."

I suspect I wasn't the only one who was made to stop and think more deeply about how easy it might be to miss something happening in plain sight.

Jesus was the master story-teller. And probably the greatest teacher the world has ever known. I think the two are closely connected. Stories don't just 'tell' us things. They show us things. The best ones pick us up from exactly where we are and take us inside whatever it is that is being considered, so that in some way we experience it and how it affects us. And from that often comes a new insight, a different way of seeing, even a desire for change.

In his parables, Jesus invariably started where people were. On a hillside, watching a farmer scattering seed. In family situations. In issues to do with money and power. With the common view of the Samaritans. And, of course, almost anything to do with sheep.

And he used those situations to show people something about God, and something about themselves. Something which meant something, because it was right where they were.

I think this is why the Wow! moments we share at St James are so powerful. They are very much based in people's everyday experience, and yet show us something about God, and where we can see God in our ordinary lives. And often they show us something about ourselves as well.

Shared stories which shine a light on God's unfailing goodness and love. Here. Today. Where we live. And which, if we allow them, can help us to take another step closer to him.

Kate Day

This article is adapted from a reflection used at the Journeying on Together group, which meets most\* Wednesdays from 1.30pm – 3pm in Church House. You're welcome to come along any time to see if it might be for you. Or speak to Gill Gough, Chris Terry, Paul or Kate Day for more information. (\*except 1st Wednesday of the month)

#### FINDING GOD IN EACH MOMENT OF THE DAY

During our Sunday morning services we often share with each other ways which we have seen God working during the previous week or 'wow' moments. You may find the following thoughts helpful.

Do you know the popular series of books entitled *Where's Wally?* These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there!

In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have responded to Him. As the psalmist says, 'On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night' (Psalm 63:6).

What does this look like in practice? Here is a step by step guide:

- 1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.
- 2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite Him to guide you.
- 3. Recall the beginning of the day, when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.
- 4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day.
- 5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can expect to see two things beginning to happen:

Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change.

Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary any more!



## The Friends of St James invite you to join them for

## SUNDAY LUNCH

## 12th February ~ 1.30pm ~ Church House

Tickets are £12.50 and are available from the Parish Office



Most people think of 'church' as people sitting quietly in rows, saying quiet prayers and listening to someone talking for quite a long time.

And church services can be like that ...

but they don't have to be.

People can come together to enjoy being with God in all sorts of ways.

The important things are that we are together

we are listening to God

we are learning more about God

whoever we are, and whether or not we like sitting quietly in rows and all that.

**Messy Church** gives families of all ages, shapes and compositions the chance to enjoy crafts and other activities

take part in some simple worship

and to have breakfast together.

It's great for those of us who think with our hands

and don't much like sitting still.

It meets once a month on Saturday mornings

10am - 11.30am in St James' Church. Why not come along on 18th February?



#### **OUR SERVICES IN FEBRUARY**

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Thursday 2nd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 5th	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
	3.30pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Church
Thursday 9th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 12th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church
Thursday 16th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 18th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 19th	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	Holy Communion	St James Church
22nd			
Thursday 23rd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 26th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church

Recordings/live streams from St James Church https://www.youtube.com/ShirleyParishB90

### **FOODBANK** - current urgent needs

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Meat Soup (Chicken, Oxtail, etc.)

Tinned Fish
Coffee
Tinned Tomatoes / Pasta Sauce
Sponge Puddings
Instant Mash

https://sparkhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food https://sparkhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money

### 'WHAT'S ON'

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Every Tuesday	10am –	Welcome Café	Church House
	11.30am		
Alternate Tuesdays	11.45am	Craft Club	Church House
Every Wednesday	10am	Working party	St James
			Churchyard
Alternate Wednesdays	12noon	Ploughman's Lunch	Church House
Wednesdays (apart	1.30pm	'Journeying on	Church House
from first Wednesday)		Together'	
First Wednesday	2pm	Mothers' Union	Church House
Fridays in termtime	10am –	Jimmy Tots	Church House
	11.30am		
Every Saturday	9am –	Parish Prayers	Zoom/St James
	9.30am		Church on 3rd
			Saturday
FEBRUARY			
Wednesday 1st	2pm	Mothers' Union	Church House
		AGM	
Sunday 5th	11.30am	Friends of St James	St James Church
		Cake Sale	
Monday 6th	2pm	Book Club	Church House
Sunday 12th	1.30pm	Friends of St James	Church House
		Sunday Lunch	
Monday 13th		Nordic Walking	
Tuesday 14th	7.30pm	Friends of St James	Church House
		AGM	

For more information, please see our website, the weekly pew slip or contact the Parish Office

CHURCH HOUSE (opposite St James Church), Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX
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#### FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

### 27th February to 12th March 2023

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs 27th February to 12th March. It comes with a sombre reminder: climate change means that soon some of our favourite foods, such as bananas, cocoa and coffee could be harder to grow. And if that is combined with deeply unfair trade, then communities growing these crops will be pushed to the brink. This makes Fairtrade all the more vital – for all of us.

You can help three ways during this Fortnight.

First, why not join an online Big Fairtrade Get Together? Hear Fairtrade farmers and other experts explain what needs to change, for a sustainable future.

Secondly, let your friends know of any Fairtrade event in your area, from a coffee morning to a quiz night (our Parish event is on 4th March).

Thirdly, buy Fairtrade whenever you can, from flowers to coffee, clothes to teas, plus lots else.

For more information, visit https://www.fairtrade.org.uk



#### **EATING FOR A HEALTHY PLANET**

What we eat affects both our own health and the health of the planet and there are changes we could make which would be good all round.

- Avoiding waste by not buying too much and making use of leftovers.
- Eating less meat and dairy produce.
- Following the LOAF strategy with food which is Locally sourced/seasonal, Organic,
   Animal friendly, Fairly-traded.

It's not quite as easy as it sounds! Food is often packaged in bulk, production of dairy substitutes can have a bad impact on the environment ... and is it better in winter to buy tomatoes imported with air miles or home grown in hot-houses?

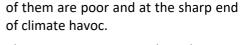
The answer might be to make some small changes since these add up if enough people join in. In these hard times, the cost of buying differently can be a worry. Food prices have been artificially low for a long time and in our part of the globe we have tended to expect ready supplies of cheap products, maybe not appreciating what we have?

Local means produced as close to the point of consumption as possible. Farmers' markets or 'Buying British' are good strategies, but season also makes a lot of difference. It costs air miles to import salads and soft fruit in January, unlike root vegetables, greens, apples and pears picked here in the autumn. Maybe we should not expect so much choice of food all the year round?

**O**rganic food is noticeably dearer so why not try just one item - say carrots - and encourage producers who avoid herbicides and pesticides.

Animal friendly products are certified by the RSPCA or other reputable bodies and this is shown on the packaging. Again, the product may be a little more expensive so maybe use smaller portions?

Fairly-traded products are used wherever possible in church catering and it would be good if all parishioners could scour the supermarket shelves for ethical goods. Don't the producers of tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas deserve a fair return for their work? Many



Please use your **LOAF** when shopping and make the world a fairer place.

Kate Crocker



#### 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

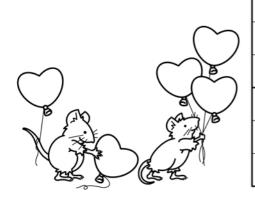
- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (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

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



Answers are on page 23



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2	4							

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#### **FEBRUARY WORD SEARCH**

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas.

Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40, where Simeon makes his great declaration of faith and recognition of Jesus. Simeon's 'Nunc Dimittis', is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer.

Answers are on page 23





**APPEARANCE BABY** BOY **CANDLEMAS** DAYS **DIMITTIS EVENING FESTIVAL FORTY JESUS JEWISH** LIGHT LORD MARY MOTHERS NUNC **OFFICE** PRAYER **PRESENT** PRESENTATION **PUBLIC PURIFIED** SIMEON **TEMPLE** WEST

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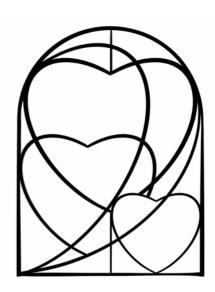
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PUZZLE ANSWERS										
3	5	9	6	4	1	8	7	2		
1	2	4	8	7	9	5	6	3		
6	7	8	5	3	2	9	1	4		
9	3	5	7	1	4	6	2	8		
4	1	6	3	2	8	7	9	5		
7	8	2	9	6	5	4	3	1		
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**Kate Day** 

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Tel: 0121 430 4785

SAFEGUARDING Sue Harries

Tel: 07977 012753 or 0121 745 8896 (c/o Parish Office)

#### **SAFEGUARDING**

As you all know we are a parish that takes safeguarding very seriously. Everyone who comes to our churches deserves to feel included and very importantly, safe.

We want you to know that if anything is concerning you, please talk to Sue Harries, Safeguarding Co-ordinator, or Paul Day, Vicar.

We must all look after one another.

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

Gill Hanton, 200 Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath B90 1PF

Telephone: 0121 733 2347 or 07973 942145

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