



Christ the King  
St James the Great  
St John the Divine

May  
2024

# Shirley Parish Magazine



## Pentecost - Acts 2

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

CLERGY

## Reverend Paul Day

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

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

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



**CHURCH HOUSE (opposite St James Church), Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX**

**ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX**

**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, Widney Junior School, Clifton Crescent, Solihull B91 3LQ**

**ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW**

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

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***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.*

**Registered Charity number 1131912**

## OUR SERVICES IN MAY

| Date                                 | Time    | Service            | Venue                  |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Thursday 2nd                         | 10.30am | Holy Communion     | St James Church        |
| Sunday 5th<br><i>Rogationtide</i>    | 10.30am | Parish Communion   | St James Church        |
|                                      | 6pm     | Reflective Worship | St James Church        |
| Thursday 9th<br><i>Ascension Day</i> | 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<br><i>Pentecost</i>      | 9am     | Morning Worship    | St John's Church       |
|                                      | 10.30am | Holy Communion     | St James Church        |
|                                      | 10.30am | Morning Worship    | Christ the King Church |
| Thursday 23rd                        | 10.30am | Holy Communion     | St James Church        |
| Sunday 26th<br><i>Trinity Sunday</i> | 8am     | Holy Communion     | St James Church        |
|                                      | 9am     | Holy Communion     | St John's Church       |
|                                      | 10.30am | Worship 4 Everyone | St James Church        |
|                                      | 10.30am | Holy Communion     | Christ the King Church |
| Thursday 30th                        | 10.30am | Holy Communion     | St James Church        |

## THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

**Congratulations to the April winners**

£50 ~ David Paice    £25 ~ Gordon Bragg

*Come and join us for a*

### COFFEE MORNING

Monday 13th May 2024

10.30am - 12 noon



St John's Church, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green B90 1PW

**Nordic (or not) next walk**  
will be on **Monday 20th May**  
See the weekly notice sheet  
or call 07790 377 210 or email  
[jangardner2203@gmail.com](mailto:jangardner2203@gmail.com)  
for more details

**All welcome!**



## OUR NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATION MANAGER



My name is Emily and I am really excited to be taking on the role of the Parish Administration Manager.

I have nearly 20 years of customer service experience and 12 years of administration experience within the NHS.

I cannot wait to build on those skills within a setting so very close to my heart.

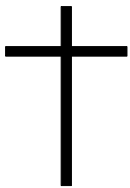
Outside of work I am a mother of two and I am enjoying watching my daughter begin her journey within the church.

I am very passionate about music which has filtered down to my children. I truly believe that when words fail, music will speak.

I am a creative person and have a talent for writing poetry. I am also able to do various different accents which always makes a bedtime story extra special as we will go around the world in 25 pages!

I love biscuits and cheese and a good cup of tea has the magical power to make everything feel so much better. I cannot wait to meet you all.

*Emily Ellis*



### Monumental Masons

#### **BANNOCKS OF SOLIHULL**

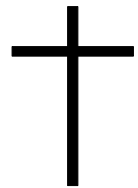
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## **AFTERNOON TEA ON ST PATRICK'S DAY**

Congratulations to our wonderful Jan Dalton and her lovely team for producing, what we hope will be the first of many alternate month, Sunday Afternoon Teas. The menu was superior to some of the teas that I have eaten in hotels and restaurants. Mouthwatering quiches, Vol au Vents, sandwiches, crudités etc. and endless cups of tea or coffee served with a smile from the team.

Then it was time for a break. A game of Irish Bingo. We all wondered what that was all about. Great fun and so much laughter.

Then it was back to serious eating. Mini trifles, scones with delicious jam and cream, and a two tiered cake stand displaying the most delicious mini cakes that one could wish for.

St Patrick's Day was celebrated in style. So do think about supporting Jan and her team next time the event is advertised in the weekly news sheet.

Thank you again from those who attended.



*Ann Blackford*

## JOIN US IN PRAYER

Pupils at Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James have a box for prayers that they have written. They can be used during their Collective Worship.

Some of their recent prayers are below -

*Dear Lord*

*Please help us to live a happy, compassionate life here at St James School.*

*Help us to stand firm in faith and do everything in love.*

*Amen*

(2 girls in Year 5)

*Dear Lord*

*Please help us forgive, be courageous and persevere, and help us to do everything in the power of love.*

*Amen*

(boy in Year 4)

*Dear Lord*

*Thank you for this school and friends.*

*Thank you for food and drink.*

*Thank you for the wonderful people.*

*Help us to show our school values and to respect and forgive others and cherish how lucky we truly are.*

*Amen*

(girl in Year 5)



*Dear God*

*Help us to understand people that need our help.*

*Help us to learn from each other and respect what the world has given us,*

*O wise and understanding God.*

*Amen*

(girl in Year 5)

## OUR PARISH HEALING SERVICE

We are checking and updating our list of names read out at the healing service, which usually takes place during the Eucharist on the last Thursday of the month at 10.30am in St James Church.

If you have asked for prayer for yourself or for someone else and have a name or names on the list, please inform the Parish Office, by email or telephone, if you wish this to continue. If you want to add a name or have one removed from the list, please also inform the office. We ask for a first name and surname but only first names are read out in the service.

The parish has a long tradition of providing a distinctive service of healing and bringing, in faith, the needs of body, mind and spirit before the Lord. Please feel free to ask for prayer and, if you don't already, please join us at one of the healing services where there is an opportunity to have laying on of hands for healing and anointing by clergy.

The practice of prayers and anointing for healing has strong biblical roots – in the letter of James chapter 5 verses 13,14 we read *“Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.”*

Each week the Thursday morning communion service is followed by coffee and chat in Church House – and the healing service is no exception.

*Theresa and Paul*



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

**Principal - Mrs H Lynch**

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

**Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James, Halifax Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 2BT**  
Phone: 0121 744 7897 office@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk www.stjames.tgacademy.org.uk



# CRAFT SALE

**An extensive selection of goods will be at bargain prices and well worth a visit (cash only please)**

**Wool, card making, embroidery materials, magazines, gift boxes, storage boxes etc.**

**Light refreshments will also be available**

**Tuesday 4th June, 10.30am - 1.30pm**

**Warwick Room, Shirley Institute, Church Road  
Shirley, B90 2AX**

In aid of

**Alzheimer's  
Society**

United  
Against  
Dementia



## SHIRLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Stratford Road, Opp. Longmore Road

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Fridays 9.45 to 11.15am & Tuesdays from 7pm

Wednesday & Friday No Experience Necessary as Tuition Given  
Tuesday League Bowling

**COME AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS**



## THE BLUE TITS ARE BACK AT ST JOHNS!

Our nesting box may be old and in need of attention but we're pleased to report that we have a new family being raised in there again this year!



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**Email ~ sandraboyce61@hotmail.com**

## GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Now I'm used to the fact that no one is at home much in the week before Easter, even this year when the schools had broken up. What I'm not used to is being asked if I want to go along to anything. So, when Sarah asked me to go with her to some sort of walk of witnesses I was eager to go along.

But I did ask why the witnesses needed to walk. Couldn't they go on the bus? So, Sarah (not very patiently) explained that they needed to be seen by everybody as they were witnessing that they believed that Jesus had been crucified on Good Friday and rose again on Easter Sunday. Somehow that wouldn't work if we were all on the bus.

We got to Our Lady of the Wayside Church early and Sarah was struggling into a hi-vis vest. Exhibitionist!! OK then – steward. As the stewards were briefed the church began filling up and I began to recognise people, but not always from our parish. Sarah explained that this walk was by people from all the churches in Shirley so I should expect to see different people. I recognised the lady from the Baptist Church café, the man who has appeared on a Zoom call and Sarah pointed out someone she knows from Scouts.

After a reading and a hymn outside the church we set off. There were a lot of people and it moved very slowly but that gave us time to nip to the front to do our stewarding. It was tricky crossing all the roads and they don't all have crossings. Most drivers were kind and helpful, although a few were impatient as we straggled across the road.

The walk stopped at St James Church, by the entrance to the park and outside Asda. Every time we had a reading, a prayer and a hymn and we all shouted 'It's Friday but Sunday is coming'. The sun tried to shine, the rain did rain but we carried on regardless. I saw Richard handing out palm crosses to people watching us and there were lots of smiles.



At the end we were invited back to the Baptist Church for hot drinks and hot cross buns. I lost Sarah who had drifted off to talk to someone else that she knew. But I knew that lots of people had seen us as we walked and I understood a bit more about being a witness.

*Nicodemus Penfold - Parish Raconteur*

P.S. A week later Sarah came home from a meeting laughing about something. 'What?' I asked. She told me that when she got there the first thing anyone said to her was not any of the usual greetings but 'It's Friday but Sunday is coming'.

# Mothers' UNION

Val Sperrey welcomed all to our April Easter social afternoon and commenced with prayers. Val explained that the afternoon would start with a quiz prepared by Reverend Wendy Carter on the following topics – picture quiz of famous faces, three sheets of anagrams covering Football Clubs, famous Landmarks, Cities and a true or false-fact sheet about marriage. Thank you to Wendy for giving us something to ponder on.

Time also allowed us to put wool tails on the backs of the knitted poppies in preparation for assembly. It was a happy and light-hearted afternoon culminating with tea or coffee and Hot Cross Buns.

Our speaker at our next meeting on **Wednesday 1st May** at 2pm will be Rowena Nicholls, Diocesan Trustee.

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.**

*Susan Knight*

## PLEASE KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING ...

... for our 'Poppy Wall' to be displayed for Remembrance Day in November.

At the last count there are 1593 poppies and at least double this number is needed - the target at the moment is 3000.

There is wool for sale in the Parish Office at £2 a ball.



*Thank you to everyone who is working so hard to make this happen.*

*Linda Pitt*

Open every Tuesday

10.00 am – 11.30 am

## Welcome Café

Pop in for a cuppa or stay longer for a chat.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Church House  
Church Road  
Shirley B90 2AX



## WALKING THE PARISH BOUNDARY

### Saturday 4th May

On Saturday 4th May we will once again be walking around the Parish Boundary, praying for the Parish as we go. We would love you to join us for all or part of the way. The complete distance is around 14 miles! We leave 18 Widney Lane at about 9.45am and then these are (very) approximate timings:

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 10am    | Corner of Brick Kiln Lane / Widney Lane                          |
| 10.30am | Corner of Solihull Road / Prospect Lane                          |
| 11.15am | Corner of Stratford Road / Sandy Hill Road                       |
| 11.45am | Colebrook Road shops   |
| 12.15pm | Prince of Wales pub (or what used to be the pub!)                |
| 1pm     | Lunch at St John's Church  |
| 1.45pm  | Leave St John's Church for St John's "loop" around Tidbury Green |
| 3pm     | Leave St John's Church again!                                    |
| 3.15pm  | Canal Bridge on Haslucks Green Road                              |
| 4pm     | Corner of Tanworth Lane & Blackford Road / Dog Kennel Lane       |
| 5pm     | Finish!  |

Please let Paul know in advance if you are joining on the way round so we make sure we wait for you! You'd be most welcome no matter how far you walk – or if you don't fancy walking just come and join us for lunch at St John's!



This year more than a million Christians worldwide will be joining in long-distance prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

What started in 2016 with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York inviting the CofE to pray, has grown into an annual international and ecumenical call to eleven days of specific prayer that more people will come to know Jesus.

According to the organisers of Kingdom Come, the movement is now in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, and spread among 85 different denominations and traditions.

Kingdom Come explains that it encourages: “Every person, household and church to pray that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him”.

## **PATHWAYS TO PRAYER**

### **Saturday 11th May**

I am always encouraged when I read that Jesus’s first disciples once said to him “Lord, teach us to pray”. In theory prayer is easy – what could be easier than talking to the God who created us and loves us – but in practice it can be much harder.

Last Autumn we produced the Shirley Parish Prayer Book in an attempt to cut through some of the mystery. It provides a lot of ideas for daily prayer – there are still copies available if you haven’t got one. Most of the prayers in the book are word based, but we communicate in so many other ways.

On Saturday May 11th in St James Church we will be thinking about other ways we can pray - using for example music, drawing, making and movement. There will be lots of prayer activities you can try out - these “prayer stations” will be in place for the whole week.

On the Saturday between 10.30am and 1pm there will also be some practical demonstrations of various ways of praying, together with some hands on guidance in writing and leading intercession prayers for Sunday worship. If you have never led prayers in church this could be your opportunity to find out more.

Why not drop in for a while? We will make sure that there will be tea and coffee available all day on the Saturday as well as there is no reason that we can’t pray when we have a cuppa in our hands!

Full details and a timetable of what will be happening on the day will be available shortly. I look forward to seeing you there!

*Reverend Paul Day*



## OUR ANNUAL MEETING (APCM) Sunday 12th May

Each year we hold an Annual Meeting of the Parish. It's a chance to look back at what has been happening and what God has been doing and a chance to look forward to what God wants us to do in the future. This year it's on Sunday 12th May. After our morning worship (in whichever church in the Parish you normally attend) we will gather together at 12 noon in Church House for lunch (bring your own sandwiches etc!). Lunch will be followed by the meeting at 1pm.

We will hear reports of the various activities; we will do the legal things like accept the 2023 accounts and we will elect a new Church Council. The Church Council meets 4 or 5 times a year as a council, plus some sub-committee meetings to make decisions about what happens in the Parish. Anyone who is on the Parish electoral roll can stand to be elected. There will be more information on elections nearer the time, but can I encourage you to have a think about standing.

The annual meeting will also give everyone the opportunity to have their say about what's going on and to ask questions. Please make the date a priority in your diary!

*Reverend Paul Day*



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Blossomfield Grange stands out from other care homes with its large apartment-style living and luxury facilities. The home offers a choice between two room types, each with their own ensuite bathrooms, private dining areas and kitchenettes. Our one bed suites are ideal for individuals, whilst our companion

suites offer an additional room, perfect for couples to enjoy as an extra living area.

Living at Blossomfield Grange is all about quality of life, and we offer tailored care both for residential residents, as well as those living with dementia on our specialist memory care floor. All residents are supported to continue to enjoy lifelong hobbies and make new friends, from music sessions to quizzes, while dancing, exercise classes and gardening support residents to stay fit and active.



\*As rated by the Care Quality Commission in England and the Care Inspectorate in Scotland.

Join us for our upcoming event

## Dementia café

First Monday of every month  
10.30am - 12 noon

Join us for our regular free dementia café at Blossomfield Grange. Aimed at those living with dementia and their loved ones, you'll have the opportunity to meet other people, share experiences, take part in our fun activities, and get advice and support.

Contact the home to RSVP.

**Blossomfield Grange care home**  
**1 Worcester Way, Off Dog Kennel Lane, Solihull B90 4JX**  
**0121 756 7156**  
**[careuk.com/blossomfield-grange](http://careuk.com/blossomfield-grange)**

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024

Christian Aid Week **12-18 May**

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to fund lasting change



The focus for 2024's Christian Aid Week is on Burundi and in particular the way that Christian Aid works with local partners to set up local loan schemes that give women the opportunity to start their own small businesses.

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, and is particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change.

You can donate via the website - <https://give.christianaid.org.uk> or put cash in an envelope marked 'Christian Aid' and hand it into the Parish Office or put it in the collection plate in church and we will ensure that it reaches the right account.

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

On **Sunday 19th May** four members of our church are going to be confirmed at Birmingham Cathedral. We send them all our love, congratulations and best wishes for their special day.

They have written the following about themselves -



### Hayley Hogan

I wasn't a believer in God as a teenager. As I grew older God became more important to me. I would say I believed in God but I didn't have a relationship. I knew I wanted baptism for my children and myself, and I wanted to be married. A health scare for my now-husband, and children reaching school age, made me realise how important my faith was. I felt I could cope if I did these things. I now understand this to be that I needed to be closer to God. So I was baptised alongside my two amazing children, I'm married and we are growing in faith together.

### John Hogan

It was at Church School when I was first introduced to Jesus and the Church as well as some Church-run youth groups. In 2009 whilst serving in the army in Afghanistan, we were taking many casualties and fighting with bullets and IEDs all around us, it was truly a scary place. I believe God was watching over me, especially when IED I walked over twice did not go off; when a decision to avoid a particular ditch saved our lives, and when bullets passed me by inches. God, I believe, saved me for new purposes in life including saving the lives of two girls at risk from drowning.

### Daniel Oztekin-Smith

My name is Daniel Oztekin-Smith and I've decided I want to be confirmed as an adult to affirm my baptism as a child. I started attending church again a year ago and have been immersing myself in the community and re-exploring what it means to me to be a Christian.

### Nicole Oztekin-Smith

My Name is Nicole Oztekin-Smith, I am married and have a wonderful daughter called Elodie. When my daughter was small we went through a difficult time which led me to baptise her following which I then started going to church. Over the last year I have learnt so much about myself and the Christian community and the good we can do just by believing, I then felt I needed to be baptised, which I did on Easter Sunday 2024. Confirmation is a symbol of commitment to my faith journey and becoming the person God intended me to be.



## SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

Shirley Parish Book Club have recently been reading a book called 'The Lost Bookshop' by Evie Woods. The book was suggested by Meryl Davis, who found it a great story with believable characters and we all were eager to read it. Here are our thoughts:-



Generally, everyone felt it was a thoroughly good read, with elements that some of our group felt were a little unnecessary, however all of these added to the 'magic' of the book.

The book seemed to encompass a number of genres and created a great story. There is lots of fantasy and magic which are vivid and carry you along. The two female characters have backstories which lead to tragedy and revenge, but this is counterbalanced by love and romance. A large part of the plot involves a mystery and some detective work and it is fascinating. There is a good mix of characters too, from the very likeable to outright villains. Everyone was rooting for Opaline and Martha and keeping our fingers crossed for Henry.

Overall, we felt it was a heartwarming, easy to read and enjoyable novel.

'The thing about books' she said 'is that they help you to imagine a life bigger and better than you could ever dream of' is our favourite quote from the book.

*Written by all the members of the Book Club*

## OUR READERS MINISTRY

One thing that I am often being asked is just what Readers / Lay Ministers actually do, so I, on behalf of the other Readers in the Parish have made out a list of the things we are involved with. Apologies if I have left anything out, but it gives everyone a chance to understand just how busy we all are in God's service, even when we look like we are just casually filling in time!

\*A tutor for up and coming new readers.

\*An anchor reader for new readers who are learning to preach - to sit in on a service as a friend as they preach and just be there for them.

\*Opening up church, sometimes setting them out as well, writing and preaching a sermon, looking at hymns to go with said sermon and service whether it's a Eucharist or Morning Worship, writing prayers or finding someone who would be willing to write some or even read the bible readings at these services.

\*Keeping tabs on the wafers and wine that is needed, to also make sure these are replenished when required.

\*Keep a check on attendance - who might be on holiday or just having a day out, is someone needing help?

... continued over the page

## MYSTERIOUS WAYS!

My progress after a stroke had stalled, and my capacity to return to normal had probably gone backwards these past few weeks. All a bit depressing. But young 8 year old Zehra next door seeking my help with a school project on gardening, growth and sustainability, has thought a bird nesting box a good idea and asked me to make one for her.

These interesting youngsters bring such enjoyment to our lives that not wanting to disappoint her, I struggled with my walker up the garden and steps to the shed. There I made the box and deconstructed it for her to later reassemble the various parts herself and glue them together.

I hadn't considered myself able to find purpose or interest to work at the bench just now, or wanted to, but I could sense my spirit and energy lifting as the methodology emerged from my sorry state to give her the appropriate challenge and yet produce a worthwhile outcome for her theme.



There's a line in Cowper's poem and hymn on God's mysterious ways that, long forgotten, comes to mind in this upward course. I don't presume at this stage there is in the "bright design" phrase of the troubled poet any transcendental influence in this Zehra episode but it goes into my mental evidence file nevertheless. Also, I shall "fresh courage take" as Cowper further instructs, trying to understand what provided the precise balance, weight and enterprise I needed for this improvement and why it came the way it did via the simple undeniable request of a child.

*Don Abbey*

## OUR READERS MINISTRY *continued*

- \*Messy Church plus Bible Art, Open the Book and the 'Journeys' with the schools.
- \*Welcome Café and Ploughman's lunches.
- \*Taking communion to nursing homes and to the sick.
- \*Visiting people, and in general helping out people, maybe a lift or a visit to doctors or hospitals.
- \*Sometimes taking funerals, also arranging social events, Lent courses and other small groups.
- \*Attending meetings like the PCC and its sub-committees.
- \*Praying for or with people.

If you talk to Gill, Sarah and Kate I am sure that they can add to my list. We work as a team, and we all have a specific area that we take responsibility for. We of course take guidance from our Vicar Paul and Curate Richard. I would also add that there are many other people that volunteer in the Parish and we are very grateful for all that they do.

*Denise Smith*

## FOOD BANK NEWS

I promised to give you some information about The Pantry scheme which is now up and running at St John's Church, Sparkhill, in the area of the church adjacent to where "our" Food Bank operates on a Wednesday.

The Pantry scheme runs for three and a half hours each Monday, run by a Coordinator paid by the Narthex. There are 10 volunteers to assist her. Folks become members of a club for the fee of £5, and then can come weekly (or less frequently if they wish). On payment of £5 they can choose 10 items of food: 3 from the higher value baskets, and 7 from the lower value baskets, roughly to a value of between £15/£20. The food comes from supermarkets etc. via the Fare Share scheme, some fresh, some frozen, some tinned. There are also toiletries and cleaning products. The freezers and fridges were passed on from the Springfield Trust when their funding ran out and they had to withdraw from the scheme. Although folks wait in the same area as our Food Bank clients and also receive hot drinks/toast etc. the two foods are kept completely separate and "bought" on different days.

The intention of the scheme is to wean folks off the Food Bank scheme where they receive a prepacked bag of foods with no payment. This re-establishes the habit of buying food of their own preferences with their own money. There are 160 members currently, with an average attendance of 30 each week, numbers increasing steadily as the word gets out.

Meanwhile, "our" Wednesday Food Bank at St John's continues to be busy. To my great personal delight, there is a steady take up of books both by adults and children. We also keep a supply of small toys/colouring books behind the scenes to hand out to Small Beings when they accompany their parents in their pushchairs.

The current shortages are UHT milk, tinned rice pudding and tinned fruit. And a desperate shortage of bags, both plastic (apologies to you EcoWarriors!) and fabric ones.

Please help if you can ...

*Many thanks, Elizabeth Paice*

(The GrowBaby charity has been closed during April to reorganise and sort their stock)



## ARDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We are a small and friendly group of ladies who meet at **Shirley Methodist Church**, 257 Stratford Road, B90 3AL on the **2nd Friday** of each month: doors to the venue are open from 6.45pm with meetings commencing at 7.10pm.

Each meeting has a local visiting speaker who educates/enlightens members with a demonstration/presentation/talk.

This is followed by refreshments and a chance to talk with other members. We also have a bring-and-buy table of books and fresh produce. There is a monthly competition and a raffle.

We are always pleased to see visitors at our meetings. You can be sure of a warm welcome and we hope that you will enjoy your visit enough to want to join us as a member.

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SKITTLES NIGHT

Saturday 14th September

HARVEST SUPPER & BARN DANCE

Saturday 28th September

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## THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

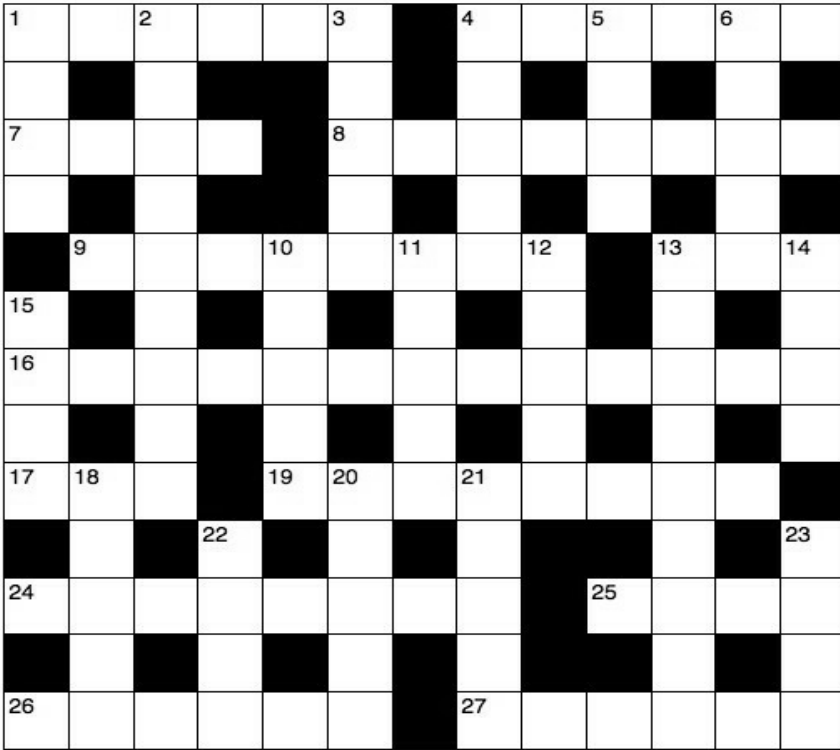
### Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)  
 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)  
 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)  
 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)  
 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)  
 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)  
 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)  
 17 Rap (anag.) (3)  
 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)  
 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)  
 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)  
 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)  
 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

### Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)  
 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)  
 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)  
 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)  
 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)  
 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)  
 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)  
 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)  
 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)  
 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)  
 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)  
 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)  
 18 Cares (anag.) (5)  
 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)  
 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)  
 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)  
 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

# THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



Answers are on page 27

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



## THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT : MARCH 2024

We are all aware of the problems caused by plastic waste. Our land, rivers and seas are littered with plastic packaging and our bins are full of the stuff! There is so much of it damaging our environment and getting everywhere - in our soil, water, food and drink - and so, inside us.

Greenpeace has just held a big citizen science project to measure plastic discarded in our homes. Twenty parishioners checked their own waste for a week and the Eco Committee looked at Church and Church House bins.

The results were sobering. I think everyone who checked at home had used more plastic wrapping than they expected. My own result was 62 pieces with stock pots, small yogurt cartons and snack wrappers as big contributors and I am trying to change this. Back to foil wrapped stock cubes, large packets of biscuits and big yogurt cartons - perhaps I should make my own? Although we now have more plastic which is labelled as recyclable we should not feel reassured because it can only be re-processed a few times before it is too degraded to be useful.

What was more upsetting was the feedback from Greenpeace about the fate of the plastic we carefully put in our brown bins. Only 12% is recycled in the UK with 17% being exported, often to countries who lack recycling facilities, where it ends up in tips. 25% is buried in landfill, where it takes hundreds of years to decompose and 45% is burned, polluting our air.

Greenpeace invited participants in the count to sign a letter to our MP asking for a drastic reduction in the use of plastic packaging. We have received standard replies describing what the government has done so far rather than recognizing the urgent need to do more. We need to keep the pressure up - and all try to look for ways of avoiding plastic packaging.

**Next Month** - results for St James Church and Church House - we need to do better with our recycling!

*Kate Crocker*

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## WORDSEARCH - ROGATION SUNDAY

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday.

This is when many parishes still 'beat the bounds'.

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land.

The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil.

About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake and storm.

Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to harvest. In the days when maps were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were.



*Answers are on page 27*

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

ASKING  
BEAT  
BLESSING  
BOUNDARIES  
BOUNDS  
CORNFIELDS  
CROPS  
CROSS  
EARTHQUAKE  
HARVEST  
LAND  
MAPS  
MAY  
PRAYER  
PROCESSED  
ROGATION  
ROMANS  
SEED  
SPRING  
STORM  
SUNDAY



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## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| S |   | I |   |   | A | C |   | X |   | P |   | A |
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| A | S | T | R | A | Y |   | D | I | N | N | E | R |

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



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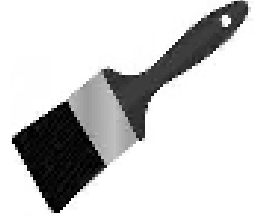
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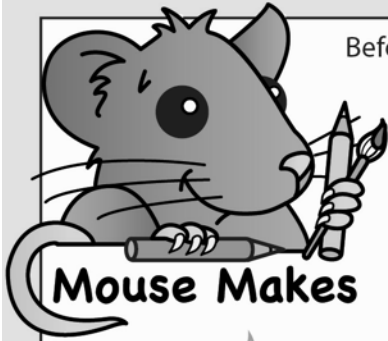
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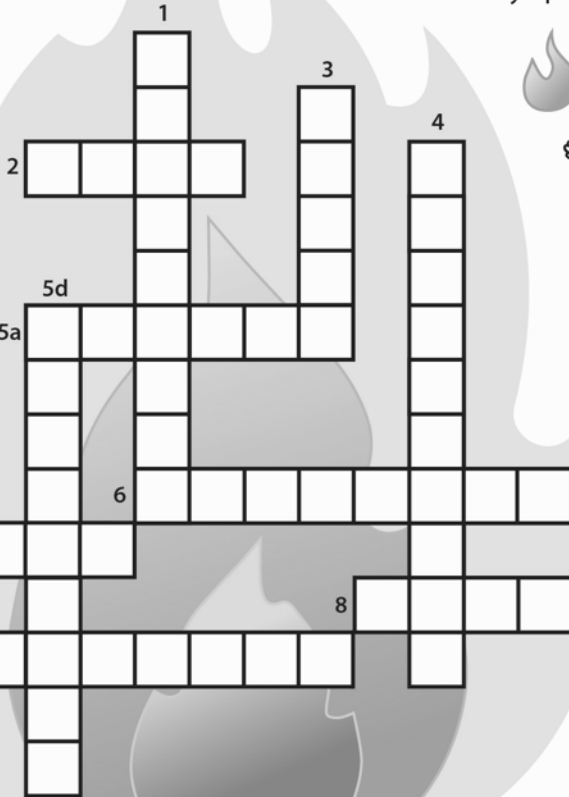
READ the story  
of Pentecost  
in Acts 1-2

Look up the Bible  
verses to find  
the answers to the  
crossword clues.

How many  
words can you  
make from  
the letters of:  
DAY OF  
PENTECOST

Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples  
"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit  
has come upon you, and you will be my  
witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea  
and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...

...When the day of Pentecost arrived,  
they were all together in one place,  
and they were all filled  
with the Holy Spirit."



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 3 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 4 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*
- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*

## PARISH REGISTERS - MARCH

### Baptism

31st                      Nicole Louise Oztekin-Smith

### Funerals

21st                      Edna Florence King

28th                      Patricia Ann Tipping



## PRAY WITH US

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



# SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE *continued*

## READERS

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**Denise Smith**

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Tel: 07815 193892

## CHURCH WARDENS

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**Deputy Warden - St John the Divine Church**

Linda Alford  
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## SAFEGUARDING

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

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