Shirley Parish Magazine



July & August 2023

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

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

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4904334906 SHIRLEY PARISH

MAKING HIM KNOWN

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

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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

TICKETS NOW ON SALE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE ...

The Friends of St James invite you to a

SUMMER BAR-BE-QUE



Sunday 16th July 1pm at Church House



Tickets are £7 for adults or £18 for a family

Please bring your own drink and a chair

Come and join us for a

QUINGO EVENING

(an exciting mix of quiz & bingo)





Tickets are £8 which includes a buffet supper

Saturday 22nd July 7.30pm in Church House

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Congratulations to the June winners £50 ~ Carol Robinson £25 ~ Jill Abbey



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Care Home Provider of the Year 2022

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PAUSE FOR THOUGHT ... MARY MAGDALENE

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church's calendar.

What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Put Jesus at the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest in the world:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: 'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously.

We should be careful not to dismiss the things that don't follow our expectations, because Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we let Him, He can do it through us!

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TUDOR GRANGE PRIMARY ACADEMY AT ST JAMES

On the second Sunday in May Morning Worship at St James Church provided a rare treat. Our service was led by the chaplaincy team from TGPAStJames. The professionalism of the team as they led us through the readings was amazing. As were their reflections on the school's values of faith, love and courage. This was no children's performance to impress their families but a well-paced act of worship. And they taught us some new songs.

It was brilliant that we were also joined by their Headteacher and other members of staff, as well as the families of the chaplaincy team itself, and to chat with them over coffee and cake after the service. As for the regular congregation members, we were well impressed. And one child brought her mother to Messy Church as a result of hearing about it in the notices.

It is hoped that this may become a regular occurrence – if so, don't miss the next one.

One of my privileges is that I get to attend the TGPAStJames end of term services. When I arrived the chaplaincy team greeted me like their long-lost friend which was appropriate as the theme of the service led by years 3 and 4 was friendship. Some of their reflections on friendship were thought provoking. Again, I got to learn some new songs.

We continue to strengthen our links with the school – watch out for the results of Bible Art on display!

Sarah Penfold



Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James Nurture, Learn, Achieve

Principal - Mrs H LynchFor 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



3pm until 6pm

Your support will be appreciated



Mothers' N

Linda Pitt opened our June meeting with prayers and welcomed Ruth Ray who gave an interesting talk on being a host to a Ukrainian family.

Following coverage of the war in Ukraine and the request for host families in the UK to accommodate Ukrainians wishing to leave their homeland Ruth and Mike felt that they this was something that they could do now that their own four children had flown the nest. They attended a meeting at Dorridge Village Hall and from that meeting they agreed to accept a family. Ruth did stress that this was not done through Solihull Council. After several months of going through the legal channels they welcomed a mother Oligar and her 9-year daughter Marsha into their home in June 2022. Their first hurdle was to get a place at their catchment area school for Marsha as she had not been in school since February. This proved difficult as no places were available at their local school or any other local schools. In desperation Mike emailed Solihull School to enquire if there were any bursary's available and they were invited into school for an appointment with the Headmaster. Following a meeting with the Heads of both the Senior and Junior Schools Marsha was offered a place at the Junior school where she has settled in and is happy. Ruth was saying that Oligar loves cooking and is very willing to help in many ways, this was supported from Reverend Wendy Carter who is also hosting a Ukrainian mother and daughter. They have settled into a happy routine within the family home of Ruth and Mike.

Ruth and Wendy agreed that when the war is over in Ukraine both their families will wish to return home as soon as possible.

<u>Knitting Wool</u> request please for premature baby knitting – If anyone has any spare double-knit baby wool in pastel shades it would be appreciated. Please telephone me on 0121 744 6298.



We look forward to welcoming Reverend Denise Jones to our next meeting on **Wednesday 5th July**, speaking on her time as hospital chaplain working in the ICU and premature baby unit at the Women's Hospital, Birmingham.

Visitors are always most welcome to any of our meetings.



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SUGGESTIONS FOR SAVING WATER THIS SUMMER

Never work under a running tap. To wash fruit and vegetables or rinse anything, put water into a bowl.

When turning on a tap reduce the rate of flow. Doing this will reduce your use of water and reduce your water bills.

Don't rinse dishes under a running tap - put them in a rack, then rinse them quickly with a spray or a pan of water.

Keep a jug of water in the fridge so that you don't have to run the tap for cooler water when you want a drink.

Keep a bucket in the shower and direct the flow of water into it before the hot water comes through. Use this for watering the garden, rinsing dishes, washing clothes, etc.

Put a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank.

You will save that amount of water each time you flush.

Take shorter showers.

Don't use a hose to clean the drive - use a broom.

Don't use a hose to rinse the car, use a bowl and cloth. Don't use an automatic sprinkler on the garden - use a

watering can.

Chris Terry, on behalf of the Parish Eco Group



FIRE SAFETY TRAINING

It seemed very appropriate that on one of the hottest days of the year so far we were considering fire safety. We were a small group but hopefully we represented most of the activities that take place across our churches and buildings. Our trainer was Dave, a retired firefighter with many years of experience.

Dave began by talking about three different types of extinguishers, what they contain, when to use them and at what distance from the fire you need to be for them to work effectively. It was possible to hear cogs turning as we tried to remember what he was saying. We then watched a video showing some of the things we needed to be aware of - turning off the electricity when an electrical appliance is on fire, how to hold a fire blanket so that your hands don't get burned.



By far the scariest thing was when a cup of water was poured onto a chip pan fire - and that was in a controlled space for the purposes of training.

Finally, the exciting part. We went outside Church House to have a go with the extinguishers. Aiming at a fire bucket with three different types we were able to get a feel for the weight, how the nozzle felt and how far from the fire we would need to stand.

None of this training overrides the importance of avoiding setting fire to anything in the first place, and if the worst happens focusing on evacuating the building.



Dave's advice - if you don't feel confident tackling the fire, just get out quickly.

Sarah Penfold

HOLY YEAR WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - Part 3



In parts one and two (Parish Magazine May/June issues) I related the beginning and continuation of our pilgrimage to the shrine of St James the Great in Santiago de Compostela, in North Western Spain, following part of the medieval pilgrim route known as the Camino Frances. The whole of this particular route is 774 kilometres. I walked with my husband Dave and our friend Revd. Colin Jones. Our plan was to walk from Leon in Spain, a distance of 302k.

Having spent the night at Ponferrada we made an early start and decided to have breakfast on the way. Before long we came to an interesting church with murals on the outside and the whole building surrounded by railings. We found a café for breakfast and there were two German women in there one of whom we had noticed beforehand who was struggling to walk. We found that she had a serious calf problem due to the steepness of the climbs. It was almost as difficult going downhill as this also took its toll on calf muscles. The women had met on the route. The lady who had the problem was telling her friend to carry on but she didn't seem to know what to do. I suppose that is a difficulty when pilgrims who are strangers decide to walk together and then one of them develops a problem. I suppose it teaches something about commitment.

Nearby there were two custom built towers for storks and they were nesting there. These towers were provided in order to discourage them from nesting on the church itself. Apparently they build nests upon nests for generations. It was interesting to see sparrows nesting below in the older areas of the nests ... nature's perfect way of re-cycling, I suppose. There is always a temptation to stay and observe because it is all so fascinating, but the thought of getting left too far behind drew me on.



We headed on for Cacabelos. This village is in the heart of the fruit and wine region of El Bierzo. Apparently the wine is excellent but hardly known outside Spain. There were multitudinous market garden areas with an irrigation system that reminded me of the Old Testament waddies in the Negeb desert; it was the way in which they were channelled through the fields. I was particularly fascinated because I recalled a very gentle Old Testament scholar who used to bless us with the words: 'May you be like a Wadi in the Negeb'. I was dragged hastily out of my meditation as a coach party of teenage children arrived with their teachers for an off-road walk.

They had their rucksacks on their backs and chatted and laughed as they went. I think they must have forgotten that first rule of the Camino: reverential silence ... ah well ... 'despise not your brother in his merrymaking' ... (Apocryphal Books of the Old Testament: Sirach, chapter 31. Verse 31) ... there's a scripture for everything, isn't there?



Before long our noisy fellow travellers decided that it was time to eat and sat down in the shade of the trees, so we gladly left them behind. The next stage of our walk was long and hilly. This was to lead us to Villafranca del Bierzo. This part of the route was poorly waymarked and there were some confused and quite angry pilgrims who had gone the wrong way and wasted a lot of time. We spotted our German friend Eric again (of whom I wrote in Part 2). His toe was better but his calf muscles had seized up. He said he would get on to the road and try to get a lift.

Entering Villafranca we arrived almost immediately at the Romanesque church of Santiago (St James) with its Puerto del Perdon (Door of Pardon). Pilgrims who had got this far but were too sick or injured to continue to Santiago were, once they had passed through the 'door of forgiveness', granted all the same benefits and indulgences as if they had completed their pilgrimage. Permission for this, though, has to be given by a Bishop and you were and still are required to prove your incapacity to continue. Thankfully, although footsore and weary, we were in good health. Having walked 22k we spent the night at a hostal which was very clean and comfortable with good food. Looking out onto the street I noticed that it had started to rain.

Next morning, we left Villafranca at 7.30am. The road route passed under the motorway which is an impressive construction. It is a long steep climb from here to the mountain village of O Cebreiro in Galicia so we decided to get breakfast as soon as we could. This

was to be our first taste of Empanada. It is made from a delicious pastry and filled with either seafood or meat. It was good and would keep us going for the tough climb. We also took some cheese baguettes for our lunch. We arrived at the village called Hospital where in Medieval times there had been an English hospital. There was also a cemetery.



HOLY YEAR WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA continued

We had a steep climb through a horse chestnut wood and as we travelled we met a young woman from Sweden. She was in trouble with a groin strain and her friends had gone on ahead. It is always tempting to give advice but she said she had taken painkillers and would be O.K. so we carried on. Soon it was time for lunch. We sat down with great relief and opened our rucksacks to discover that the cheese had toasted nicely and so we ate gratefully.

We continued our walk on to O Cebreiro, a tiny village of nine houses. There is a large pilgrim refuge there and it was completely full. O Cebreiro developed from and for the pilgrimage. There was a hospital there from the 11th Century until 1854 which was run by monks from the 16th Century Abbey of St. Geraud of Aurillac in France. It all looked very jolly there but we had to carry on and find accommodation elsewhere.

We continued on, quite unsure of our route for another 3k and arrived very tired at a Casa Rural in Linares after 31k of hard walking. It stated in the guidebook: 'not pilgrim friendly' and they were right. But we had got to the indiscriminate stage and although the rooms were damp and the food was awful we told each other stories, shared a bottle of wine, enjoyed good conversation and decided on a 6am start in the morning.

To be continued ...

Reverend Theresa Jones

#STAINEDGLASSSUMMER



Many parish churches are full of beauty and history, attracting visitors from near and far. Many include stunning stained glass windows, often depicting characters and stories from the Bible.

To encourage people to visit church buildings, whether they are churchgoers or not, the Church of England are inviting churches to share a picture or video of one of their stained glass windows, with some text to explain it, on social media with the tag #StainedGlassSummer.

They will be retweeting and reposting contributions from the Church of England's national Instagram, Facebook and Twitter channels throughout July and August

HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED

ADAVU: you may remember me mentioning in several pewslips that there had been a specific request for large nappies for a handicapped teenage girl. Thanks to donations from several kind people, I was able to purchase two



boxes of these special nappies (which are very expensive), and Liisa came to collect them, subsequently delivering them to the grateful (and tearful) mother. I also sent some wet wipes, a bag full of toiletries for the mother, and a pink pompom hat and matching mittens for the daughter – after all, nappies are hardly fun, are they? Well done, folks.

FOOD BANK: with the school holidays coming up there will be even greater strain on the supplies. As ever, the staples are needed - **tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, long life milk and meat soups**. Can you help?



NARTHEX SPARKHILL

NARTHEX CLOTHING BANK etc.:

At last, all the clothing, domestic items, toys etc. have been gathered together into one of the warehouses next to the Food Bank at Tyseley. It has been a mammoth operation, not helped by the lift at one of the storage

places being out of order for some months whilst a spare part was required. However, now it is all together and the huge job of sorting it out and putting it into labelled boxes has started. It is going to take some time doing that whilst at the same time trying to satisfy urgent needs from people in distress. This is why we called a halt to receiving items for the past few months; we will let you know when they are ready to receive specific items again.

Thanks everyone for your support, Elizabeth Paice

OUR SERVICES IN JULY

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
	6pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Church
Thursday 6th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 9th	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 13th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 15th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 16th	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Thursday 20th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 23rd	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Worship 4 Everyone	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Thursday 27th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 30th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church
	6pm	Forest Church	St John's Garden

Copies of the sermons can be found on our website - https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/download-a-sermon

PLEASE CHECK FOR ANY CHANGES ON THE WEEKLY NOTICE SHEET, SOCIAL MEDIA OR ON OUR WEBSITE https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk

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CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, Widney Junior School, Clifton Crescent, Solihull B91 3LQ
ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW

OUR SERVICES IN AUGUST

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Thursday 3rd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 6th	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
	6pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Church
Thursday 10th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 13th	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 17th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 19th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 20th	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Thursday 24th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 27th	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 31st	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church



10am until 11.30am



Every Tuesday in Church House - and in the garden when the weather is good

Come with a friend or just bring yourself - there's always someone to chat to.

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

I have just returned from holiday and, as I often do while away, I took the opportunity to read a couple of books. One of them was "One Fine Day" by Ian Marchant (thank you Ray Speakman for its loan!). I've read some of Marchant's work before — like me he's a bit of a railway buff and his book Parallel Lines gives an interesting overview of the history of the country's railway system.

"One Fine Day" however is not about railways, though it does contain the tale of a long train journey from Newhaven to Presteigne on the Welsh border involving 6 trains. Rather, the book is a reflection on the life of one of lan's ancestors – his 7x great great grandfather Thom - based largely on the diary old Thom wrote back in the 1700s.



There is much of interest as Marchant takes a look at what day to day life was like in Sussex 300 years ago. He makes the observation that in our society we are far removed from where things come from – our food, our clothing, our furniture and our possessions. Old Thom would have grown the flax from which his clothes were made; would have known exactly where the food on his table was from (and probably where the table itself was from). For us life is very different.

But Marchant doesn't look at life in the 1700s through rose tinted spectacles. He is aware of the way scientific advances have improved our lives beyond measure. But he can also see what we have lost. And chief of what we have lost, in his view, is community.

Marchant's great x7 great grandfather lived in a time where people knew and cared for their neighbours. They saw those around them as fellow travellers on the journey of life, not people to be regarded with suspicion and fear. Society was not simply individuals living in the same location, but people whose lives were connected. Thom looked out for those around him, and they looked out for him and his family. This, according to Marchant, is sadly lacking from our so-called society today.

I can only agree with him – but all, I think, is not lost. As we live out our Christian faith – which is at its root a community faith - the Church is surely in a position where we can show some of that neighbourliness and care. Here in Shirley through the things we do and the people we are we can show God's all-embracing love. A love that includes everyone. and has the potential to change the world immeasurably for the better.

GOD'S GARDEN

Plant three rows of peas:

Peas of mind

Peas of heart

Peas of soul

Plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip Squash grumbling Squash selfishness

Plant three rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful Lettuce be obedient Lettuce love one another

Plant three rows of turnips:

Turnip for services
Turnip for meetings
Turnip to help one another

Plant three rows of thyme:

Thyme for God
Thyme for Bible study
Thyme for prayer.

Finally -

Water freely with patience, Cultivate with love, And remember – you will only reap what you sow!

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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

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JULY WORDSEARCH - ST THOMAS

On 3rd July the Church remembers St Thomas, also called Doubting Thomas, because he would not believe his fellow disciples' news of the Resurrection. But 'doubt' did not mean that Thomas did not love Jesus! Only a few weeks before, Thomas had urged his fellow disciples to follow Jesus to see Lazarus in Bethany, despite danger from the Jews. "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life. Thomas was sometimes very confused about just where Jesus was headed. But in John 14:5 Jesus untangled his confused commitment: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me." Finally, after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Thomas, showing him the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was electrified, and his response immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff). Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of people down the centuries.

BETHANY CONFUSED **CRUCIFIXION** DANGER DIE **DOUBT DOUBTING FAITH FATHER FOLLOW** GOD GOING **HONEST IMMEDIATE JESUS JEWS** JULY

LAZARUS LIFE

REASSURANCE

LORD

LOVE

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RESPONSE RESURRECTION THOMAS WOUNDS



Answers are on page 23

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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Funeral

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READERS

CHURCH WARDENS

Kate Day Tel: 0121 537 9672

email: kate_day@me.com

Gill Gough Tel: 0121 603 2636

email: g.gough@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah Penfold Tel: 0121 681 1525

email: sarahpenfold@blueyonder.co.uk

Denise Smith Tel: 07815 193892

email: deesmith1181@hotmail.com

Parish Wardens

Linda Pitt Tel: 0121 744 6777 Gill Hanton Tel: 0121 733 2347 email: lindaalisonpitt@gmail.com email: gill.hanton@btinternet.com

Deputy Warden - St James the Great Church

Kate Crocker Tel: 07562 664163

Deputy Warden - Christ the King Church

Denise Smith Tel: 07815 193892

Deputy Warden - St John the Divine Church

Linda Alford Tel: 0121 430 4785

SAFEGUARDING Sue Harries

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

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SHIRLEY PARISH



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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



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Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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