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life's big questions**

# The **START** course

**Thursday evenings  
July 11<sup>th</sup> – August 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:30pm – 9:30pm**

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## OUR PARISH PRAYERS



Give to us your people, living God,  
 A renewed faith and a bold vision  
 that we may proclaim  
 the Good News of your Son  
 with faith that your kingdom will come,  
 with hope for our community  
 and with love for Him  
 who died and rose again  
 to save us, Jesus Christ our Risen Lord  
 Amen

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,  
 send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
 wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.  
 Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,  
 and in service to our local community.  
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
 Amen

*We meet for half an hour at 8.30am every Saturday morning to pray for the  
 Parish - all are welcome to join us.*

## THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

Bishop David will be joining us on the **28th July** for a parish wide celebration, followed by a bring and share lunch.

It will be Bishop David's first visit to Shirley since the reorganisation and I for one am looking forward to showing him all the good reasons we have for celebrating. As we pray and worship together, valuing our shared past while expressing our hopes for the future by adjusting our patterns of worship and other ways of developing our witness, we really do have much to be thankful for.



## THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE *continued*

In writing this I have two images in mind from our Pentecost celebrations.

The first is of the windmills made at St John's. Lovely and delicate they come into their own when placed in a breeze. My hope is that we will all continue to find ways of allowing ourselves to be inspired by the breath of God, the Holy Spirit that blew on the waters at the moment of creation and continues to blow where He will to sustain and inspire.



The second is the flames collage made by hands that was the central moment of the worship at St James's. Someone commented that the laughter, helping one another and the end result was like experiencing Holy Communion, but in a different way. Amen to that, say I.

As we move forward in our adventure of faith, may God bless our efforts to experience a depth of communion in Jesus, yes in the traditional ways we have inherited and rightly value, but in new ways that build on this inheritance of faith and worship.

*Reverend Peter Law-Jones*



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## LOOKING BACK AT SOME OF OUR EVENTS IN MAY

### Coffee and CRAFTS

At the monthly Coffee Morning at St John's Church on Wednesday 8th May those attending bought along things that they had made or are making. We admired knitting, tapestry, cards, glassware, paintings to name but a few as well as taking away some home

made cake and marmalade. Some of the items shared had been made at our 'Tuesday Cafe'. What a pleasant morning it was - and what talents our dear Lord has given us to use.

### Mothers' UNION

The Reverend Paul Nash, senior Anglican chaplain for the Birmingham Children's Hospital, came to speak to our branch on Thursday May 16th.

He spoke about his work within a multi-faith chaplaincy, supporting children, young people and their families.

The chaplaincy produce resources for children to help them cope with their stay in hospital, organize a yearly memorial service and send out cards on the anniversary of a child's death. On the request from a parent, the team now also send a card on the second anniversary of a child's death.

The chaplaincy has also produced resources for adults to help them deal with the issues around sick children and bereavement.

At Easter this year chicks were hatched out at the hospital. This gave enormous pleasure to both adults and children and gave a real sense of birth and new life. The Birmingham Mothers' Union volunteer at the hospital once or twice a week, providing a listening ear, company and cake.

Paul, in one of his signature clerical shirts, gave us a wonderful talk and a sense of the wonderful work done by the chaplaincy.

*Linda Pitt*

## SOME OF OUR EVENTS IN MAY continued

‘Where are you off to now?’ I asked on Saturday 25th May as they were finding shoes and keys. ‘To church’, said Sarah, ‘There’s a workshop about reading and prayers. Do you want to come too?’

# WORSHIP WORKSHOP

Obviously nothing would be happening at home so I jumped into the bag and went along. I was curious because once you can read, you can read can’t you? So why do you need to talk about how to do it. And I thought praying was just talking to God – how hard is that?

It all looked a bit serious. There was a big sheet of paper, and chairs gathered round it, so I decided that I should stay in the bag even though there were tempting chocolate biscuits. But the others looked quite happy as they sat down.

Reverend Paul asked us what made us feel welcome in church. Someone suggested smiling. Well people always smile at me but maybe that’s because I am a small fluffy kitten, and people know me, and I never go on my own. Perhaps it would be different if I did. Anyway they came up with a long list of things I hadn’t even thought of like knowing where to park the car, or did you have to drink coffee after the service.

Then Reverend Peter talked about saying the big prayers during the service and being careful about how you say things. It made me think about the time I hurt my paw. It would have been nice for people to pray that it got better soon, but I would not have liked them to know that I hurt it trying to catch baby sparrows. Should you pray for the Prime Minister who resigned the day before, and how to do it without being political? Just thinking about it made my brain hurt but I realised that saying these prayers is an important job and there are people who could help if you get a bit stuck over something.

Lastly Kate Day talked about reading out loud so that it made sense to the people who are listening. Again it seemed to be as much about smiling and looking at people as getting the long words right. Someone suggested that most people wouldn’t know if you got them wrong – so no need to worry. But reading slowly and clearly and putting gaps in the right places does make it easier to hear properly and to understand.

... continued over the page

## SOME OF OUR EVENTS IN MAY & JUNE continued

I was tired at the end of the morning but I had learned a lot about how to do things, and laughed quite a bit as well. Some people were joking that they would be self-conscious the next morning but others pointed out that there would be people who would be sympathetic. I was well impressed.

I'm told that there will be another morning soon for people who couldn't get to this one. Do go along if you can, I was surprised at some of the things I hadn't ever thought about but are really important. I may even go again .....

*Nicodemus Penfold - Parish Raconteur*



From Ascension Day (31st May) to Pentecost (June 9th) we joined in the Global Wave of Prayer. Our spiritual journeys were enhanced by daily prayers and readings, prayer stations in St James Church and a prayer walk round the Cranmore Estate in Shirley which included two of the places where we regularly lead worship - Swallows Meadow Nursing Home and Phoenix House.

The Shirley Churches Together events concluded with a gathering in Shirley Park which included a performance by the wonderful puppets from Tanworth-in-Arden Church.

Nationally, thousands gathered in Trafalgar Square in London - you can watch a video of the celebrations on <https://www.youtube.com>

During May, our Parish Wardens, Margaret Foreshew and Gill Hanton, supported by Reverends Peter and Paul and alongside Church Wardens from across the diocese, attended a Visitation Service at Birmingham Cathedral. The service included the traditional Archdeacons' charge, our induction into the office of Church Warden and prayers and blessing from Bishop David.

The new Archdeacon of Birmingham, Reverend Canon Jenny Tomlinson, will spend time with us in the Parish in due course.

**The Visitation**

by

Rt Revd David Urquhart  
Bishop of Birmingham

The Venerable Simon Heathfield  
Archdeacon of Aston

The Venerable Jenny Tomlinson  
Archdeacon of Birmingham

The Cathedral Church of  
St Philip, Birmingham

Thursday 23rd May 2019

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at the heart of  
each community  
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## SOME OF OUR EVENTS IN MAY & JUNE continued



Have you seen our Messy Church banner outside St James Church?

In May we found out 'Who is my Neighbour?' and in June we found lots of lost sheep.

Have a look at the photos and videos on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/AdventureinFaithB90>

and our on our website -

<https://shirleyparishb90.wixsite.com/live>

and look out for details of the July and August family fun.



On Wednesday 5th June, the Mothers' Union were delighted to welcome the return of Phil Kew and his Singing for Pleasure Choir. The choir entertained a very full house to a variety of well-known songs with a lot of audience participation. During the interval we wished Janet Butts a very happy birthday with a cake and a loud rendition of 'Happy Birthday to You'

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and this was evident by the buzz in Church House afterwards. *Sue Knight*



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to making the St John's Summer Fete on Saturday 15th June such a success. It was lovely to welcome so many people .... despite the weather!



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## CHURCHYARD MATTERS

We are making progress with St James's churchyard, helped by our loyal volunteers from the congregation and the wider community.

A group of gentlemen from Braggs are helping with the mowing and we are very grateful to the Shirley Sea Cadets and the 6th Shirley Scouts, who, with their leaders, have worked very hard on a variety of tasks in the church gardens and graveyard. They are so cheerful and willing....and energetic!

The formal gardens are being cleared of weeds and bluebells (which, though pretty in bloom, smother everything else in the border) and then re-planted. We have some beautiful, well established roses and are adding more in the beds against the church. Perennial herbs such as thyme, rosemary, lavender and sage will provide ground cover and encourage bees. We are using wood chippings from the winter tree trimming to mulch the beds and fill dips in the ground of the graveyard. Green waste and turf cut to tidy beds and graves can also be reused on uneven ground.

The challenge is to maintain the improved appearance, but this should be less heavy than the initial clearing work. We are experimenting with Thursday afternoon drop-in working parties....weather permitting.

We have left a small area undisturbed in the middle of the churchyard to encourage wildlife. In years to come, we would like to allow other areas to go to nature for a while, since we share our churchyard with many wonderful species of plants and animals!

There is always more to do! Anyone interested in joining the team, please contact Kate (0121 258 2956) or ask at the Parish Office.



### THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the June winners

**£50 - Sue Pitham    £25 - William Toddington**

## NARTHEX AND FOOD BANK NEWS

**NARTHEX:** during the past year Carol has supplied clothing, bedding, toiletries and domestic items to families in great need and distress. Some families are homeless, some are asylum seekers who have been given 'Leave to Remain', some have fled from domestic violence, some have been rescued from trafficking and sexual exploitation in the West Midlands. Within these families were 191 children (193 with the addition of the 2 babies born last month). These children are often severely traumatised and once they have been given a set of clothing and often supplies from our Food Bank, attention turns to giving them some comfort (hence the dolls I have been collecting and transforming into play units with baby cribs and clothing etc.) and something to occupy them. Toys for the younger ones are excellent – but as they often live in one room in a hostel, Lego, Playdough and large jigsaws are not suitable. I have been given a dozen colouring books for 3-5 year olds but I have no pencils – felt tip pens in the hands of toddlers are not a good idea! Dressing doll books? Small cars for small boys are always popular.

If you can help with any of these or have any other ideas, it would be wonderful. These little ones didn't ask to be in their situation anymore than their parents but ... as a grandparent I do feel for them!

**FOOD BANK:** as Margaret Barber mentioned last month, stocks of food have dramatically fallen these past two months. It is often difficult to make up bags with all the suggested supplies particularly of fruit juice and tinned fruit (necessary for Vitamin C) . Your donations of strong bags have been vital – we sometimes wonder if other donors even think of how the food gets to people's homes. I have been struggling to fill the Hygiene Bags these past months: occasionally hotels used to send their small bottles of shampoo or shower gel which was a great help but that supply has dried up recently. If you know of any group or organisation that would like to donate a supply it would be great.

I seem to spend my life scrounging things and then thanking folks for them.

Did I mention that at long last we found a double pushchair - rare as hen's teeth! - that came via the pewslip at St. Alphege, and a huge donation of baby clothes came from local nurseries - so do spread the word whenever you can - you never know what folks are hiding in their cupboards/attics!

## NARTHEX AND FOOD BANK NEWS *continued*

So – to sum up: this month my appeal is for a doll’s buggy or pushchair, toys for small beings, felt tip pens and crayons, small bags of sugar, tins of fruit and rice pudding, Ryvitas or similar, a large rug to cover bare floorboards, small boxes of washing powder plus any part used packets of nappies (any size) and incontinence pads. Don’t worry about the partridge in a pear tree!

Thanks as ever, Elizabeth Paice



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## SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - MAY 2020

We are organising a coach trip to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, famous as the shrine of St James the Great, following the *Variante Espiritual* route.

This is a part of Galicia which many have yet to discover. It is renowned for spectacular scenery, its vineyards and monasteries. Our time together will include a visit to one of these vineyards that produce the famous Alboriño wine, the village of Combarro which overlooks the Ria of Pontevedra (famous for its architecture and hórreos), and a guided tour of Santiago Cathedral itself.



Weather and tides permitting, we hope to go by boat from Villanova to Padron through the renowned mussel farms, following the unique maritime Way of the Cross. There will also be an excursion to Muxia and Finisterre, the most western part of Europe.

Our accommodation will be in the comfortable 3-star Hotel San Juan II in Poio. We shall be staying there for the five nights of our visit, this will include half board.

The flight is to Oporto from Luton using Easyjet. On the way to our hotel we shall visit the fortified city of Valença.

This is being arranged through Norman Allen Group Travel Ltd. Our bookings will be ATOL protected (no.3683) They can also arrange travel insurance, if required.

We will enquire about transport from the Birmingham area to our departure airport.

**Dates: 16th to 21st May 2020**

**Price: £798.00 half-board (Single room supplement £64.00)**

For further enquiries and booking forms contact:

Reverend Colin Jones (our guide) - email: pacharan@btinternet.com, Tel: 01384 400 709 or Reverend Dr. Theresa Jones - email: theresaj1@btinternet.com, Tel: 01564 822687 (please note - the number of places is limited)

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## THE BEATITUDES : 'BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS'

*'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.'* (Augustine).

We all have deep longings in our lives that we seek to satisfy, however Jesus points out that we can only be truly satisfied by God Himself: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew Chapter 5 verse 6). The words *hunger* and *thirst* are strong words referring to a truly desperate for righteousness. But what does this mean?

*Longing for right relationship with God:* It means putting God at the centre of all we are and do and trusting Him with the whole of our lives. It's a response to Jesus' death on the cross, rather than anything we can do for God: *'This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.'* (Romans Chapter 3 verse 22).

*Longing for right living for God:* A righteous or holy life is one that is righteous twenty four hours a day. It's an integrated Christian life lived out of our ongoing relationship with God, affecting everything we do, say or think.

*Longing for right relationship with others:* God's righteousness will influence how we relate to others in the community, so that all our relationships are loving and just e.g. at work, with family, friends or neighbours.

When we are really desperate Jesus says that God will *fill* us and our desire for righteousness will be satisfied. The problem is that often we are not desperate enough! We don't want to let go the deep desires that get in the way of God. *'It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are far too easily pleased.'* (C S Lewis).

*Reverend Paul Hardingham*

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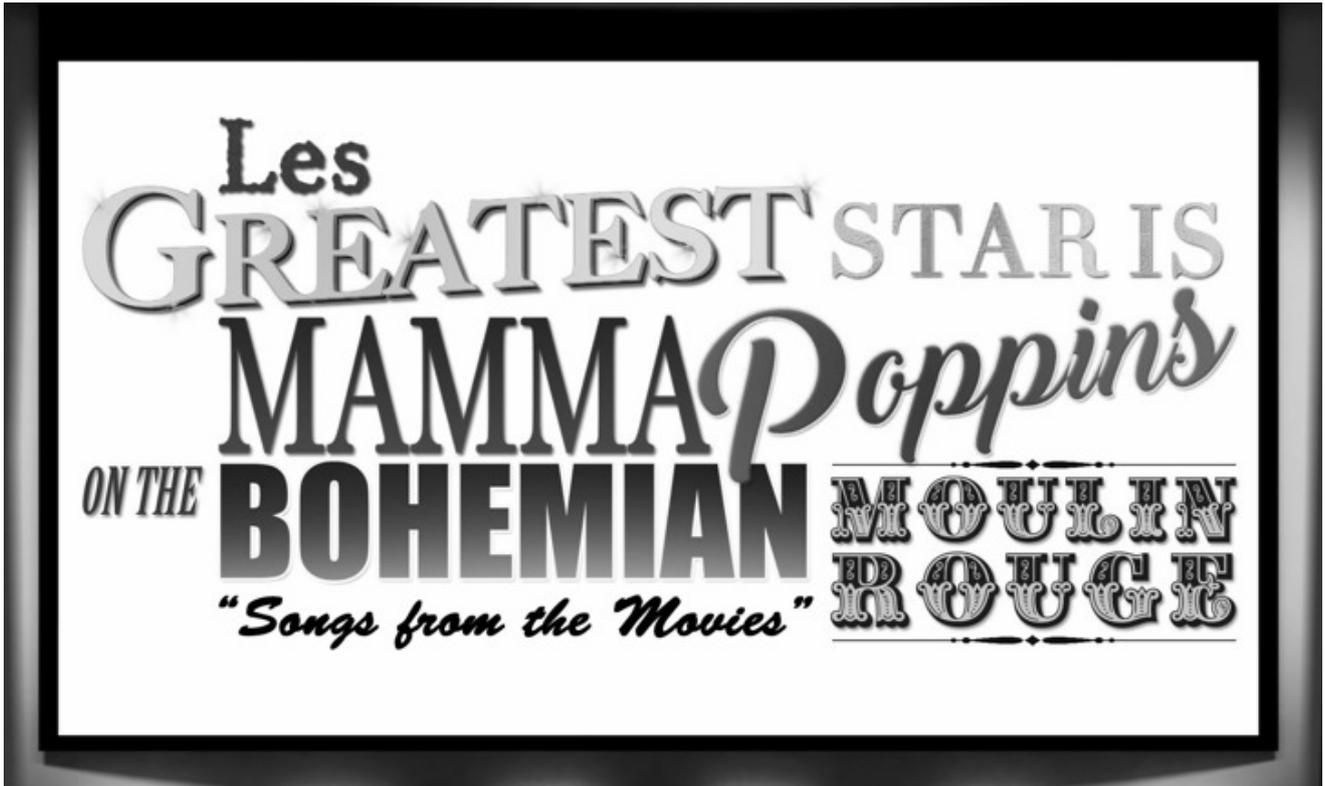
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or via the box office on **0121 705 6762**

## OUR PARISH DIARY FOR JULY 2019

- 1st 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion
- 2nd 11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion  
2pm: 'Tuesday Café' at Church House
- 3rd THOMAS THE APOSTLE  
7pm: Eucharist and Guild of St Raphael at St James Church
- 4th-6th Union Theatre at St James Church – *see page 15*
- 6th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 18 Widney Lane
- 7th THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
9am: St Johns & Christ the King Joint Service at St John's Church  
7pm: Reflective Evening Worship at St John's Church
- 8th 11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion
- 9th 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House  
7.30pm: PCC Meeting at St James Church
- 10th 10.30am: Coffee Morning & Book Swap at St John's Church  
10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
- 11th 7.30pm: 'Start' course at St John's Church
- 13th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 18 Widney Lane
- 14th THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
11.30am: The Friends of St James Walking Group
- 16th 10.30am: Mason House Holy Communion  
2pm: 'Tuesday Café' at Church House
- 18th 3.30pm: Messy Church at Widney School  
7.30pm: 'Start' course at St John's Church  
7.30pm: MU – 'Bring a Shoe' with Rowena Nicholls at Church House
- 20th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church  
10am: Messy Church at Church House
- 21st THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- 22nd MARY MAGDALENE
- 23rd 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 24th 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion  
7.30pm: Christ the King Management Committee Meeting
- 25th JAMES THE APOSTLE  
7.30pm: 'Start' course at St John's Church

## OUR PARISH DIARY FOR JULY 2019 continued

- 26th 7.30pm: 'This is our Story' at St James Church – *see page 22*
- 27th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 65 Baxters Road
- 28th THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
10am: Parish Service with Bishop David Urquhart at St James Church followed by a 'Bring & Share' lunch
- 30th 2pm: 'Tuesday Café' at Church House
- 31st 4pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church  
7.30pm: St John's Management Committee Meeting

## OUR PARISH DIARY FOR AUGUST 2019

- 1st 7.30pm: 'Start' course at St John's Church
- 3rd 8.30am: Parish Prayers
- 4th THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
10.30am: St John's and Christ the King Joint Service at Widney School  
7pm: Reflective Evening Worship at St John's Church
- 5th 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion
- 6th **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**  
11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion  
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 7th 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion  
2.30pm: MU - Cream Tea at Church House  
7pm: Eucharist and Guild of St Raphael at St James Church
- 8th 7.30pm: 'Start' course at St John's Church
- 10th 8.30am: Parish Prayers
- 11th THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
11.30am: The Friends of St James Walking Group
- 12th 11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion  
12.05pm: MU Cathedral Prayers
- 13th 2pm: 'Tuesday Café' at Church House  
7.30pm: Operations Committee Meeting

... continued over the page

## OUR PARISH DIARY FOR AUGUST 2019 continued

- 14th 10.30am: Coffee Morning at St John's Church  
7.30pm: Pastoral Committee Meeting
- 15th THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
7.30pm: 'Start' course at St John's Church
- 17th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church  
10am: Messy Church at Church House
- 18th THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- 20th 10.30am: Mason House Holy Communion  
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 21st 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion  
4pm: Standing Committee Meeting
- 24th BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE  
8.30am: Parish Prayers
- 25th THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- 27th 2pm: 'Tuesday Café' at Church House
- 28th 4pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church

*(Please check the weekly pew slips or the website for any changes and additions to the diary)*

## SEPTEMBER 2019 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Monday 12th August

PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 31st August



**Save the Date**

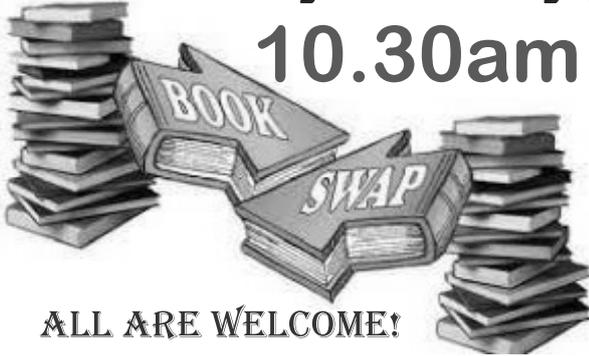
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ST JAMES MOTHERS' UNION

Afternoon Cream Tea

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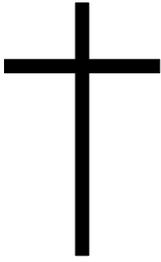
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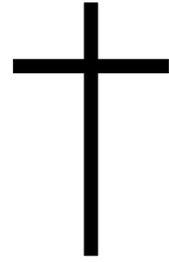


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## WORDSEARCH - ST SWITHUN - 15th JULY



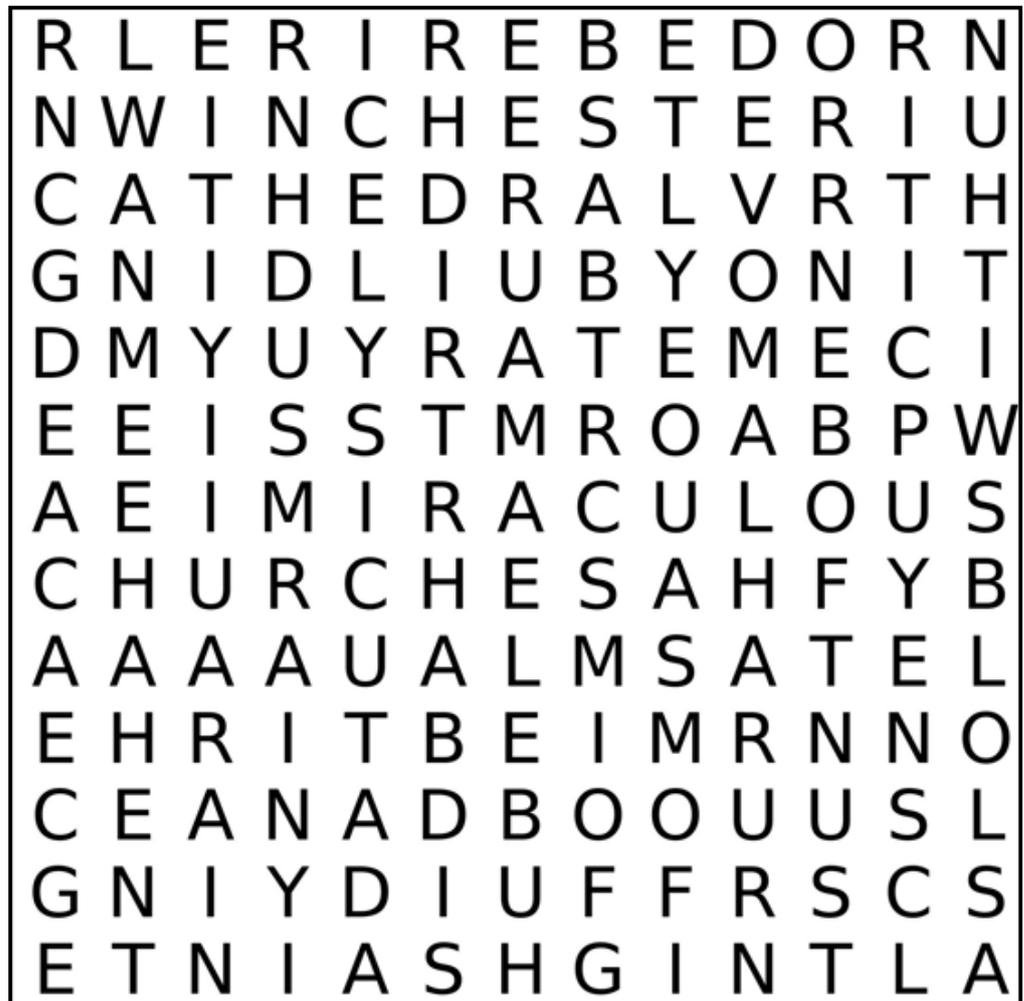
St. Swithun is the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that.

Swithun was Bishop of Winchester in the 9th century, and famous for his charitable gifts and for building churches.

When he was dying in 862, he asked to be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door. But on 15th July 971 Swithun was dug up and moved into the cathedral itself. That same day many people claimed miraculous cures, but the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and for days following, was attributed to the power of St. Swithun.

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral.

BISHOP  
BLAME  
BUILDING  
BURIED  
CATHEDRAL  
CEMETARY  
CHARITABLE  
CHURCHES  
DUG  
DYING  
FAMOUS  
FORTY  
MIRACULOUS  
MOVED  
RAIN  
RAINY  
SAINT  
SUMMERS  
SWITHUN  
WINCHESTER



## 'THIS IS OUR STORY'

It would seem appropriate that the disciple St James' journey around Europe should inspire us in to think about the journey of our church in the Shirley Parish....

As a result, St James's Patronal Festival at the end of July becomes not just a celebration of St James and his story, it becomes a celebration of the church we all love and it's story.

In the early nineteenth century Shirley was just outside the border with Birmingham, and as such was beyond Birmingham's constraints on things like cock fighting and gambling. It was our version of the Wild West. The 'chapel of rest' which became St James's Church was introduced as a sort of civilising outpost in a lawless world. The building, which consisted of what we now see as the nave – the altar and transept areas were added much later – was completed in 1832. The trouble was the builder misread the plans and built the church the wrong way round.

This is how our story began. With a mistake which subsequent generations struggled with trying to correct or argued about whether it was better to leave well alone.



We intend to mark the St James's Patronal Festival not only with the usual service on Sunday 28th July, but also with a special re-telling of the Church's story on the evening of **Friday 26th July**.

We will describe all the vicars that served St James, what happened to them and the world in which they lived.

All these stories will be told with words and music – similar to the way we commemorated the end of World War One which was received so well last year. The words will be spoken by members of our congregation and the music performed by Kevin Gill. We are hoping too that Tony Turner, an actor who is just completing a long stay with BBC Radio Drama Workshop, will be joining us.

We hope you will join us too. We start at **7.30pm in St James Church**.

No tickets needed and refreshments will be provided.

*Ray Speakman*

## ST JAMES THE GREAT - 25th JULY

Jesus, fresh from His baptism and fired with His new calling, bursts into Galilee. Coming upon four fishermen working on the shore of the lake, He says to them, 'Follow me'.

Without further ado or even a second thought, they abandon what they're doing (and in the case of two of them, James and John, leave their poor old father alone in the boat with the hired crew), and set off with Jesus, they know not where. That is how Mark's Gospel records the recruitment of four of the apostles of Jesus. Talk about a sudden change of life!

All our understanding of human behaviour tells us that this is not how people normally respond to such a peremptory invitation: no questions, no explanation. Take it or leave it. Just 'Follow me'.

That however is on a superficial reading of the text. In fact, because we have four Gospels rather than just three, we know from John that one pair of brothers, James and John, and the other two called on the same day, had been disciples of John the Baptist, who had pointed Jesus out to them as the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'.

Subsequently two of them had sought Him out and spent some time with Him in the Jordan area. This was not quite the instant 'conversion' described by Matthew and Mark, though undoubtedly it evoked an instant response.

For many of us on the journey of faith the experience of James and John - and the other two, Peter and Andrew - mirrors our own experience. First we know about Jesus, perhaps as children at Sunday school, or later as adults. Then we begin to ask questions and look for answers. Finally there may come a time when we hear His voice, as it were, calling us to accompany Him on a life of love, service and commitment.

For James this moment was to turn his whole life upside down. He became a leader of the church in Jerusalem after the resurrection and was the first apostle to be martyred, being put to the sword by Herod Agrippa in 44AD.

His brother John, in contrast, lived on as a senior figure in the life of the emerging Church. For all four who were called by the lake that day, nothing would ever be quite the same again. But then all those who set out to follow Jesus wherever He leads them are usually in for a few surprises.

## HOLIDAYS CAN BE 'HOLY DAYS'

No doubt you are beginning to look forward to your summer holidays.

Just think about it – sun, sea and sand, time to relax and unwind, no deadlines to meet, no responsibilities to shoulder . . . ah, bliss!

We are fortunate to live at a time when workers are encouraged to take time off from work for the sake of their well-being. Most employees are given four to six weeks paid holiday each year, plus Bank Holidays. What a blessing that is, and a far cry from the day when the only time workers had off was on church Feast days – the original holy days.

This year, rather than go on holiday and forget God, we might use our time away to become even more aware of God's presence in our lives.

Here's how:

(1) Thank God for recreation. Whatever helps you relax and wind-down is a gift from God to be received with thankfulness and enjoyed to the full.

(2) Take extra time to sleep and adopt a slower pace. This is how you will recharge your batteries and be refreshed.

(3) Make space for the relationships that matter to you, especially your family and friends. Enjoy each other's company, talk and laugh together, enjoy unhurried meals.

(4) Notice God in the world around you. Let the beauty of God's creation fill your soul with wonder. Linger and look deeply at everything you see.

(5) Take a good book with you that will nourish your inner life; listen to music that will help you relax. Breathe deeply and walk slowly, there's no need to rush.

Psalm 23 verse 2 comes to mind: 'He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul.'

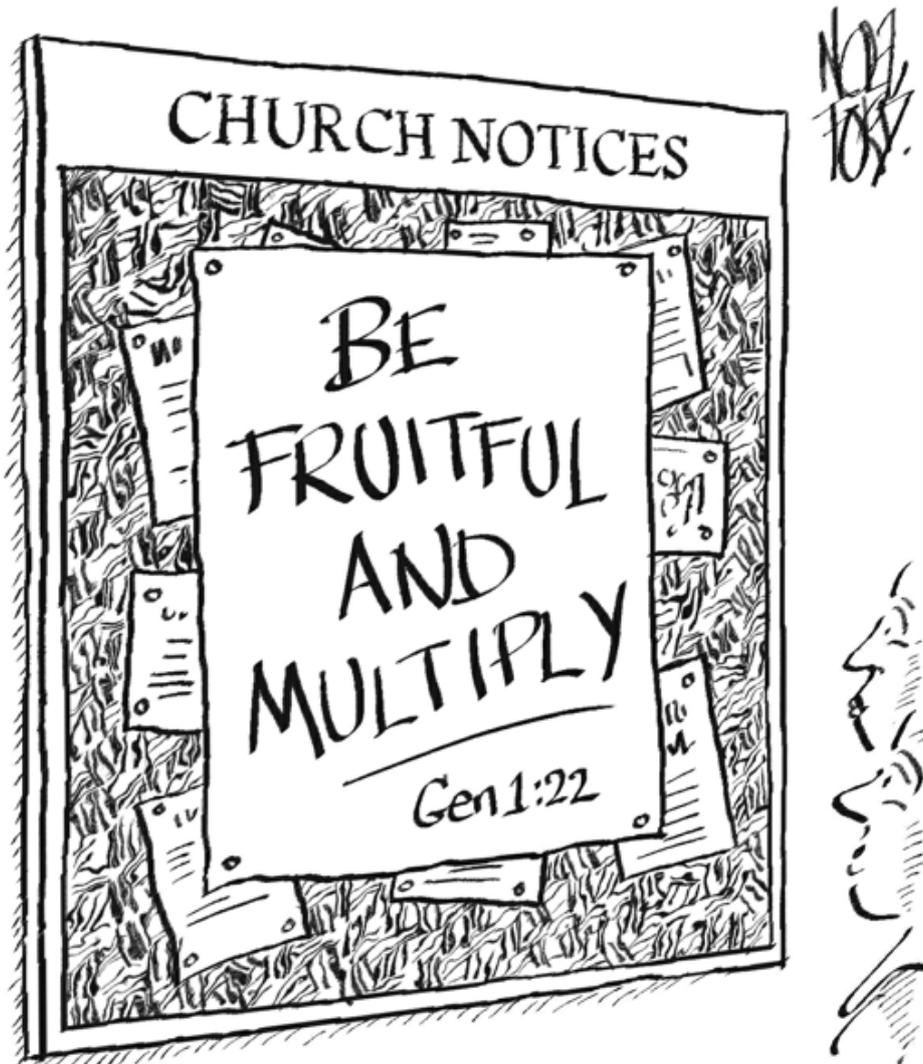
Happy Holidays!

*Tony Horsfall*



## SIGNS SEEN OUTSIDE CHURCHES ...

- It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.
- If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.
- This is a ch\_\_ch. What is missing? (U R)
- Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- In the dark? Follow the Son.
- Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.
- If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.



The vicar's attempts to increase the number of children attending services were becoming less and less subtle...

## CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

### ACROSS

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

### DOWN

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me"" (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

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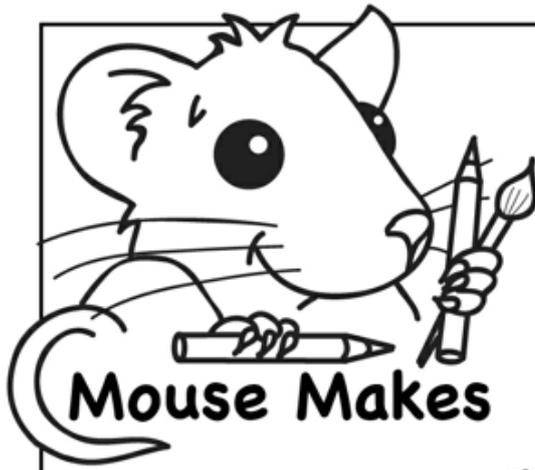
Answers are on page 29

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# Mouse Makes

Who did Jesus choose as His first disciples?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 4:18

Which disciple was a tax collector?

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 10:3

Who was John's brother?

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 4:21

Which disciple betrayed Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark 3:19

Which Apostle wrote Revelation?

\_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 1:1

Who became the Apostle to the Gentiles?

\_\_\_\_\_ Acts 13:9  
Acts 9:1-18

## DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the Apostles recorded the stories of Jesus and wrote about what it means to be a Christian.

**Matthew and John** wrote gospels.

Paul wrote many letters to the new Christian churches. (Look at the New Testament to see how many he wrote.)

**James, Peter, John and Jude** all wrote letters.

**John** wrote the book of Revelation.

In the time of the disciples it was usual for men to have two names. Which second name belongs to which Apostle?

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| JUDE        | BOANERGES |
| MATTHEW     | SIMON     |
| JOHN        | DIDYMUS   |
| PETER       | THADDEUS  |
| THOMAS      | SAUL      |
| PAUL        | NATHANIEL |
| BARTHOLOMEW | LEVI      |



## DID YOU KNOW?

Four of the disciples were fishermen: **Andrew, Peter, James and John**. They would have used **two** different nets to fish: a circular one in shallow water and a large dragnet in deep water.

A J O J E S J U D P A U L J  
 T M J U D M A T T H E W A E  
 J A O D J A M E S I M O N S  
 A T H A D D E U S L E H D U  
 M T N S M A T T H I A S R S  
 E N O T H O M A S P E T E R  
 S A B A R T H O L O M E W S

Can you find **JESUS** and all the Apostles in the word search?

- PETER • JAMES • JOHN  
 ANDREW • PHILIP  
 BARTHOLOMEW  
 MATTHEW • THOMAS  
 THADDEUS • SIMON  
 JAMES • JUDAS  
 MATTHIAS • PAUL



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## PUZZLE ANSWERS



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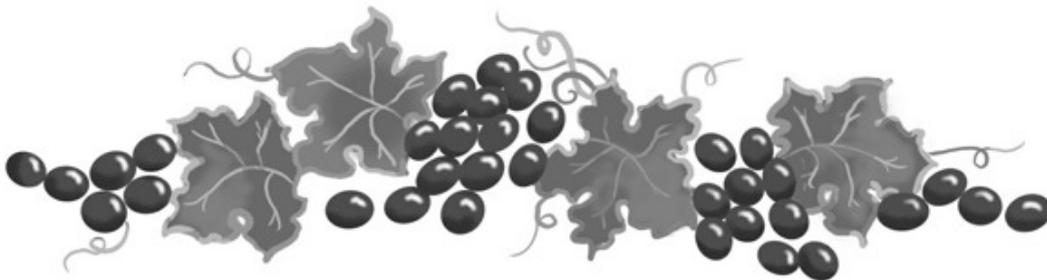
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