

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

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

Social Media: twitter.com/@ParishB90

facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/ShirleyParishB90

OUR PARISH PRAYERS



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

PARISH OFFICE

is open Monday to

Friday (except Bank Holidays)

9.30am - 12.30pm

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

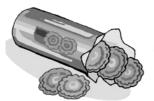
Amen

CLERG

Come and join us for a

COFFEE MORNING

Monday 3rd April 2023







10.30am - 12 noon

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

THE EASTER HOPE OF RECONCILIATION IS GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

May we celebrate anew Christ's commitment in relating to his creation; that the God-man Jesus would enter into the deepest pains and realities of the flesh in order to restore the relationship between Creator and creature. By this restorative work all creation is reconciled to its intended delight, finding peace and mutual flourishing.

https://arocha.org/en/

Shirley Churches Together



GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Meet at Our Lady of the Wayside Church B90 4AY at 10.30am

Stopping for prayers, songs and readings at St James Church, in Shirley Park and outside ASDA in Parkgate

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

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MAY 2023 PARISH MAGAZINE

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY
Wednesday 12th April 2023

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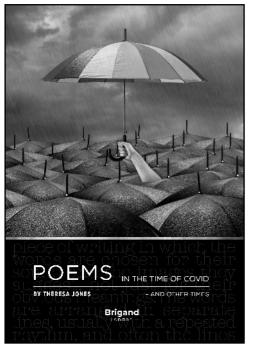
Telephone ~ 0121 744 0040 or 07976 810680 (Bill) or 07966 275134 (Dan)

89 Union Road Shirley, Solihull B90 3BY



Email ~ sandraboyce61@hotmail.com

A NEW PUBLICATION FROM REVEREND THERESA



This collection includes poems written during 'lockdown' at the time of the global pandemic 2020-22, a traumatic moment in history.

Other poems in the collection span previous years. While some of the poems offer hopeful encouragement others invite reflection on a range of issues which both challenge and disturb.

Copies are available from www.brigand.london or from Theresa Jones (Tel: 01564 82 2687 or email: theresaj1@btinternet.com) at £7.99.

A donation from any parish sales will go to the Friends of St James.



Hot drinks, home-made cake and lots of chat!

We look forward to seeing you

Every Tuesday morning in Church House

10am - 11.30am



Mothers' Non Christian care for families

Diocese of Birmingham

Linda Pitt opened our March meeting with prayers and welcomed Rowena Nicholls, a Diocesan Trustee. Linda went on to explain that she and Liz Yates attended the last Members Meeting in Birmingham where Rowena talked about a Baby Box project that she had set up at her MU branch in Northfield and this has inspired Linda and Liz to do the same here in Shirley. Linda handed over to Rowena who explained that she had responded to a need identified by local midwife of a pregnant Mum who had nothing. With the support from other people, she was able to provide a Moses basket, bouncer chair, box of clothes 0-6 months, snowsuit, sleeping bags, changing bag with baby toiletries and essentials, nappies, toys and a hospital bag and towel for mum etc. Following on from this original request their branch has provided several baby boxes for Mums who are struggling, and the branch now has a collection of stored baby items that they can provide a complete baby box on request. Rowena has compiled a suggested essential list of items for a new-born plus a list of items for a hospital bag for the Mums after delivery. Linda and Liz have been collecting essential items already for the baby box and they were on display which Rowena referred to during her talk. Linda thanked Rowena for an informative talk on the project. From this meeting Linda and Liz launched their Baby Box project. For more information on how to donate please speak to Linda Pitt or Liz Yates.

We look forward to welcoming Reverend Wendy Carter to our next meeting on **Wednesday 5th April** on Aspects of Holy Week.

The MU Theme for 2022-2024 is Transformation – Now

Visitors are most welcome to any of our meetings.

Susan Knight



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



ADAVU: you may remember me mentioning that Liisa had told us that two of her ladies rescued from trafficking and being supported by ADAVU are expecting babies this spring. The first Moses basket has been collected and delivered. The basket itself had a stand (vital to keep the baby out of the reach of wildlife!) and was filled with its bedding, baby clothes, and toys. With it went a bag of baby toiletries, Mum to be's toiletries including maternity sanitary towels, baby wipes and boxes of first size nappies. A friend packed it for me and it looked very attractive (I am not artistic and my packing would have been matter of throwing everything in and hoping for the best!). There was also a rear facing car seat for when the mother has to take the child in a taxi or social worker's car to meetings/hospital.

Now I am starting to get the second layette together. I have the Moses basket (and stand), nappies and first size clothing - luckily it will be another baby boy so I have enough clothing left over for this one. I have a friend who is going to make the bedding, a neighbour's mother who is continuing to knit but I have no toiletries for either the baby or the mother. This is where I ask for your support please. I need baby wipes, nappy cream, shampoo, etc. — nothing exciting but everything useful ...

NARTHEX: an another note, David and I have been calling at the Resource Centre attached to our Food Bank. Unusually there is currently a shortage of young girls' clothing. Usually it's the boys' clothing which is in short supply — we always supposed that is because boys wear their clothing harder (certainly my boys did!) and have less of it anyway. But this time round the boxes for the girls are virtually empty most of the time. Not sure why.

Have you a daughter, granddaughter, neighbour's child who could spare an item or two, please?

Thanks for all your help, you are so very supportive, even in these difficult times. I know that David and I had announced that we were retiring from collecting but ...

OUT AND ABOUT IN BIRMINGHAM DIOCESE

Apart from the many and varied services that take place in our churches of St James the Great, St John the Divine and Christ the King we try, as a clergy team, to support other churches in the Deanery and wider Diocese where they need cover for Eucharistic services. A church may be in interregnum or need cover for some other reason.

For example, over recent months I've responded to requests to take services for St Mary the Virgin, Temple Balsall, which has a fascinating history connected to the Knights Templar of the 12th century; All Saints Stechford which maintains a Christian presence in a predominately Muslim area; St Mary's Acocks Green with it's beautiful Burne-Jones window, and at St Patrick's when candidates for confirmation went with their vicar to St James for the service. St Thomas's Hockley Heath, and St Giles Packwood, have had help and also the ancient church of St Edburgha's Yardley, more commonly known as Yardley Old Church. I'm sure other clergy in our team could cite a similar list. At St Edburgha's I also baptised a child which was a special joy to me since my elder son was baptised there in the 1960's and that was the last time I'd been in St Edburgha's.

All of these churches are fascinating in their own way with a warm welcome, impressive features and an interesting history. Wardens try to make visits by external clergy as easy as possible and usually have readers and intercessors ready to assist. The coffee afterwards is also very welcome!

One realises that what we all have in common is the desire to preach the gospel and spread the love of Christ by faithful ministry and hospitality to all, including and especially, newcomers. This is evidence that we are 'one body' in Christ as we all work together to provide support.

In our parish we are richly blessed with sufficient clergy and a team of excellent Readers to preside and preach at services and to encourage and guide children and young people in their faith. We are in the privileged position of being able to look outwards and help others who are in need either on a long term or for just the occasional cover. This was not always the case in Shirley parish, in fact there were often some very lean times when clergy had moved to other posts.

It has to be admitted that sometimes the last thing one wants is to write a sermon unexpectedly but then those words of Jesus ring in the ears: 'Give to those who ask of you ...' and it can be hard to say "No" if you are available on a particular Sunday. However, it is always a great blessing to see churches that are flourishing and growing in numbers and have a healthy children's ministry, among them our own church of St James and our adjacent parish of St Patrick's.

Please pray for those churches in our Deanery and Diocese that are going through times of difficulty and pray also for those who respond to the request to help out. Pray for Charitas Cho who is the Support Officer for the Deanery of Yardley and Solihull and is charged with the challenging task of finding clergy to cover services in the Diocese week after week.

A prayer from the Northumbria Community:

Lord you have always given bread for the coming day,
And though I am poor, today I believe
Lord you have always given strength for the coming day
And though I am weak, today I believe
Lord you have always given peace for the coming day
And though of anxious heart, today I believe

May God bless you this Easter.

Theresa Jones





LIME TREES IN ST JAMES CHURCHYARD

The splendid lime trees in the St James Churchyard date back almost to when the church was built. They were planted between 1832, when Rev Griffin was the first curate of the chapel of ease, and 1843 when the chapel became a Parish Church and Rev Thomas Nash Stephenson became the first Vicar. Many of them were felled in the 1960s to allow more light into the building but about 30 remain.

The trees, however, are in desperate need of remedial work to make them safe and to ensure their future. Recently a branch fell from one of the trees and hit, but did not injure, a passer-by. Our tree surgeons recommend that they be pollarded. This will guarantee their safety and also stimulate new and healthy growth to replace old and dangerous branches.

The cost of this work will be in the region of £8000 but it is work that needs to be done. Although our finances are reasonably healthy this kind of expense can only be met by using our reserves or asking for special donations. So we are asking church members and friends to consider making a special donation towards the cost.

If you would like to take part please make a donation through the Parish Office or place it — clearly marked "tree appeal" in the collection plate. If you are a tax-payer, giving under the gift aid scheme increases the value of your gift by 25% at no cost to you. A gift aid form is on the next page, and there are copies at the back of the churches. Please return the completed form with your donation to the Parish Office.

Many thanks for your generosity which will help these trees to be enjoyed by generations to come.

Reverend Paul Day



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I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Name:

Address (inc postcode):

Date:

Signature:

HEDGEHOGS NEED YOUR HELP THIS SPRING

During the winter when hedgehogs hibernate, their heart rate drops from around 190 beats per minute to just about 20. They breathe only once every few minutes. So, to rouse themselves from that depth of torpor and get back into normal life takes a huge surge of energy.

Which is where you can come in. Hedgehogs are hungry in the Spring. Very hungry. Most of them will have slept until mid-March, and so will now be awake - but starving. So why not put out some shallow dishes of meaty cat or dog food or cat biscuits and water?

You can even buy or make special hedgehog feeders. Hedgehogs have always been popular, but they are now sadly classed as 'vulnerable to extinction'. Numbers have been plummeting, and now there are less than one million left in the UK.

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SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

Sometimes a book arrives into our hands that hypnotises, haunts and disturbs all at the same time. Sometimes we read a book that some of us can't put down whilst some of



want to put it down as soon as possible. 'Neverwhere' by Neil Gaiman is just such a book. It's part very real whilst at the same time part very unreal. It's a labyrinth of a book. Often the fantasy is breath-taking. Sometimes the fantasy and reality clash in a disturbing way, sometimes ways that make us laugh or scare us or confuse us.

'Neverwhere' tells the story of two versions of London. One we know and one we cannot see, buried deep underground. The two Londons meet when a rather stuck-in-a-rut office worker, Richard Mayhew, comes across an injured girl in the street. As a result of helping her he finds himself in a place called 'London Below' where he very quickly loses himself in a labyrinth of fantastic places and people.

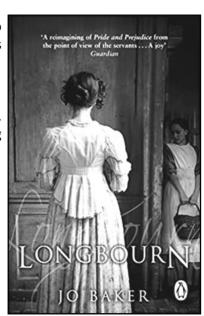
It's one of those books that some Book Club readers loved. Others didn't. Read it yourself. Be absorbed and haunted or be disturbed and repelled. Be hugely entertained or have nightmares.

The next read for the Book Club is 'Longbourn' by Jo Baker. A world away from Neil Gaiman. Jane Austen's world reimagined.

Monday April 3rd, 2pm in Church House.

Do come along. Tell us what you're reading, drink tea, eat biscuits. As Roald Dahl said, reading is like taking your mind on holiday.

Ray Speakman





An evening of musical entertainment and memories of the Band's late President, Secretary and Cornet Player, Don Hodesdon

Saturday 15 April 2023 at 7.00 pm

St James the Great Church, Church Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 2AX

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NSPCC

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

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

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

OUR SERVICES IN APRIL

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
Palm Sunday	6pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Church
Monday 3rd	7.30pm	Compline	St James Church
Tuesday 4th	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross	St James Church
Wednesday 5th	7.30pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Church
Thursday 6th	7.30pm	Holy Communion	St James Church
Maundy			
Thursday		(no morning service)	
Friday 7th	10.30am	Walk of Witness	See page 3
Good Friday	1pm	At the cross	St James Church
	7.30pm	Taizé Service	Christ the King Church
Sunday 9th	6am	Sunrise Service	St John's Garden
Easter Sunday	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
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	Church House
Sunday 23rd	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 27th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 30th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
	6pm	Forest Church	St John's Garden

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

I know that some of us can remember the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth but I am afraid I wasn't even a twinkle in anyone's eye back in 1953. I remember hearing stories of neighbours gathering around tiny black and white television sets to get a view. My mum told me that her sister worked in an office overlooking the Mall, so she went with her sister and spent the day in the office watching the crowds and eventually caught a glimpse of the Queen.

The Coronation of King Charles III will be an historic moment. The service takes place on Saturday 6th May and we are planning to show the ceremony on the big screen in St James Church, so that we can watch it together if we wish. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch – hopefully the weather will be good enough for us to have a picnic.

To mark this occasion the Church of England has produced a booklet of Daily Prayers for the Coronation. Beginning on Easter Sunday — April 9th, four weeks before the Coronation, - the booklet offers a prayer, a short reading and a reflection for each day. Using the booklet will help us:

- DAILY
 PRAYERS
 FOR THE
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 OF
 KING CHARLES III
 OF ENGLAND

 THE CHURCH
 OF ENGLAND
- Pray for the King and the Royal Family
- Pray for our nation and Commonwealth
- Learn more of the spiritual significance of the Coronation service
- Reflect on Jesus, the Servant King, who has been crowned in glory, but who came to serve and calls us to do the same.

Copies of the booklet cost £1 and will be available in our churches from Palm Sunday. The prayers and reflections will also be available by email, on the Daily Hope phone line (0800 804 8044) and on your Smart Speaker. I hope you will use them each day.

https://www.churchofengland.org/coronation/reflections



Reverend Paul Day

EASTER FLOWERS

Many types of flowers are used in churches, but during Easter, there is one that is especially loved: the Easter Lily. It is a tall, stately flower topped by large, graceful, white trumpet-shaped blooms.

While commercial bulb production of Easter lilies only began in the 19th century, Easter lilies make many appearances in both the Old and New Testaments, emphasising the flower's importance to Christianity. King Solomon spoke of them, and Christ referenced them, too.

These strikingly beautiful flowers are highly perfumed, with the central stamens covered in bright yellow or orange pollen. Unfortunately, the pollen can be a hazard, as it can permanently stain cloth due to chemicals it contains! For this reason, good florists and especially church flower arrangers will remove all the stamens before bringing them anywhere near church fabrics, or near to where ministers wearing white might brush against them.

It's thought that Easter lilies came to symbolise Christ because they embody purity - the trumpet-shaped blooms recall the horns that heralded the resurrection of Christ. This is also why lilies are identified with the Virgin Mary, and in artworks depicting the Annunciation to the Virgin they are often found in the angel Gabriel's hand.

The second reason that Easter lilies represent Christ is because of their life cycle. Each one grows from a bulb that for several years has lain quietly beneath the earth, before growing tall and stately, and blossoming into magnificent flowers. What a picture of Jesus' life and resurrection!



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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

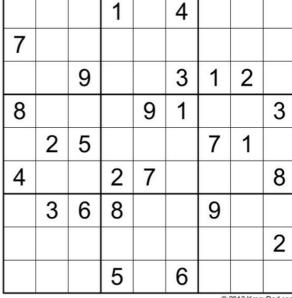
- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- **8** 'Unless I see the nail marks — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- **9** He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- **10** Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry (7)
- 11 'Look, here is . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- **12** Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- **3** Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- **5** For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- **6** 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- **7** He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- **15** The human mind or soul (6)
- **16** 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- **18** 'We played the flute for you, and you did not ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

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APRIL WORD SEARCH

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup of suffering might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. Because of Easter we can approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ. He has opened the gates to heaven for us!

APPROACH	COVENANT	JESUS	REMOVED
ATE	CUP	LAST	THANKS
BETRAYED	DISCIPLES	LAW	WARNED
BLESSED	DRINK	MEAL	WILL
BLOOD	EASTER	NEW	WINE
BODY	GETHSEMANE	OLD	

PASSOVER

LIDNLDOOLBRP ESABETRAYEDG TKENIWWAVWAE PNRAPPROACHT UABLESSEDTDH WHADISCIPLES LTTNANEVOCVE YAPPMATKEDOM DGSUSEJWNCMA OSOTCKAITIEN BLEDDONLLSRE URDNDDSICEUD

GOD

BREAD



Answers are on page 23



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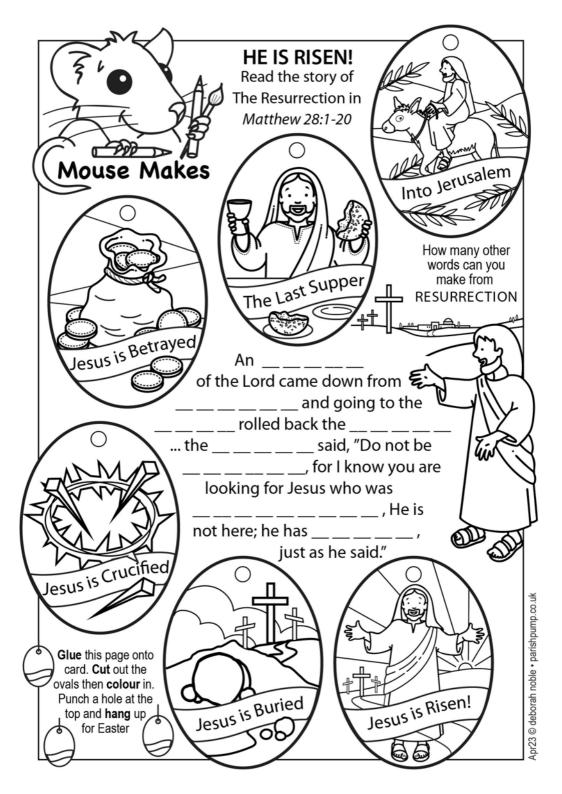
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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS - FEBRUARY

Baptisms

12th Elodie Oztekin-Smith

19th Sophia Beau Wake

Oliver Arlo Wake

Funerals

7th	Graham Victor Harrison	79
13th	Christine Helen Parker	86
17th	Harold Baker	93
21st	Ann Wrenn	85
21st	Doreen Poulson	96
22nd	Joyce Ferris	92
24th	Eva Cheshire	88
28th	Albert John Holder	91





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Denise Smith

Deputy Warden - St John the Divine Church

Linda Alford

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Tel: 01564 822606

SAFEGUARDING Sue Harries

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

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

We must all look after one another.

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

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

Telephone: 0121 733 2347 or 07973 942145

Email: shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com

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