



September
2023



Shirley Parish Magazine



SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

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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.

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OUR SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Sunday 3rd	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
	6pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Church
Thursday 7th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 10th	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 14th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 16th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 17th	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Thursday 21st	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 24th	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 28th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church

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

START THE DAY RIGHT ...

A service of Morning Prayer is now being held at 9am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in St James Church. All are welcome.

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

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the July and August winners

£50 ~ Jean Wall & Sandra Oakes £25 ~ Mary Appleby & Gordon Bragg

HELLO SEPTEMBER!

September for me always seems like a time for looking forward. I think it partly dates back to my own school days and those of my children but also it's something that lingers from many years working in a school! I am sure this resonates with others with similar experiences.

And as I look forward this September to what the next few months hold for Shirley Parish, I am quite excited!

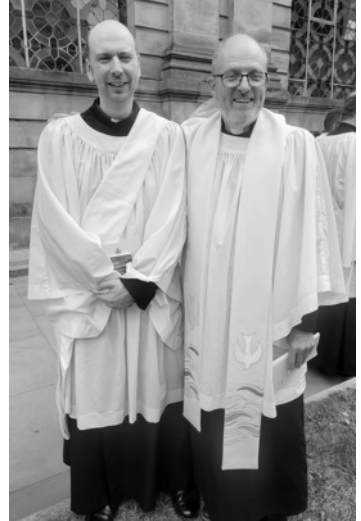
With Wendy and now Richard on board together with our Readers and the retired clergy who support us, our ministry team is looking strong and well equipped to lead us. This will enable us to do more – take on some new things and further develop some of the things we are already doing. What Chris is doing in the Parish Office will contribute towards this.

Over the next few months, we want to encourage us all in our prayer lives. The Parish Prayer Book mentioned elsewhere in this magazine is one way we will be doing this. We want to enable us all to grow in our faith, and praying helps us do this. Members of the ministry team have been meeting in pairs over the last few months to encourage, support and pray for each other – we are calling this Pilgrim Partners and hope to extend it further across our congregations through the Autumn.

The Pod Project was launched a few weeks ago (there are details elsewhere in this magazine). The provision of a toilet and kitchen facilities in the St James building will make the building much more welcoming and usable for the wider community – and I am sure that will create some exciting possibilities. But we do need to raise a fairly large sum to make this possible. A number of interesting ideas for fundraising have been suggested – please don't be shy in coming forward with others!

And there is much more. The buzz that is the Welcome Café every Tuesday; the growing involvement in the schools of the Parish and with Tudor Grange St James in particular; the monthly Worship4Everyone service at St James and the enthusiasm of both team and families at Messy Church; the monthly services in many residential and care homes. So much to thank God for and to look forward to.

I hope you are full of optimism too. God is doing great things here in Shirley – and he wants you to be involved!



Reverend Paul Day

SETTLING IN: THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF CURACY IN SHIRLEY

"How are you settling in?" is a question that I have been asked a lot by many people as I, along with Ruth, have begun this new phase of our lives, with you all in Shirley. The fact that so many people have taken the time to ask, and have been genuinely interested in the response, is testament to the warm, friendly welcome you have given us.

That welcome actually began in August last year when we met with Paul and Kate following the diocese's suggestion that Shirley might be a good place for me to serve my curacy. It continued on the following Sunday when we came to worship for the first time at St James and, although we couldn't tell anyone why we were officially there, I think plenty of people had the inkling that a potential new curate was in their midst. Once this did become official, many of you responded to my invitation to befriend on Facebook; and then when Ruth and I came along to worship and join the APCM, there was a real sense of hospitality and warmth.

So, when we came on 25th June, after a number of people had showed their support by watching the ordination service on the screen in Church, we felt very much welcomed, accepted and cared for. It was lovely to be prayed for, to be invited to join in the service (along with all the cardboard cut-out figures – which represent 'community') and to be presented with a lovely hamper of food at the bring-and-share lunch you so kindly put on for us.



And then to work – the ongoing setting up of the house (the “Curatage” as we’ve nicknamed it), and ministry. Regarding the later, it has been wonderful to get straight into it. The thing that has struck me is just how much is going on! It was good to be so actively involved so early on – just what I needed in order to help me settle into Shirley parish life. There has been a good mixture of the familiar aspects of ministry – but of course in a brand new context; and there has been much which is new to me. I wanted my curacy to be a time where I could build on my experience from my previous parish; broaden my experience in a parish of three churches and multiple congregations; as well as be involved in new things. And in the few weeks I’ve been here, I have had plenty of opportunities to do just that!

...continued over the page

'SETTLING IN' continued

So, a huge 'thank you' for your welcome and invitation to so many things. After moving away from much that is familiar and established, it can be a challenging time as we seek to settle in and establish ourselves. But it has been wonderful that you have accepted me and trusted me by letting me get involved. It is very much appreciated and has been key to helping me settle in.

We can never know exactly what these three years will hold but I can guarantee you that I will do my best to serve the parish, and you all, the best I can. So please do count on my prayers and my support for this whole community. And with God's help and guidance, I am sure it will be a time of great kingdom building in Shirley.

Every blessing

Reverend Richard Haynes

***Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
Romans 15: 7***

WORSHIP IN AN 'UPPER' ROOM

We had not set out to be at Christ the King on their first week in the new location but finding ourselves with a Sunday morning that had no commitments elsewhere we had decided to go to see our CtK friends. It was quite exciting going round the back of the school to the new building we had seen over several weeks when we were in school for Open the Book. Now we would find out what it was like inside.

Round the back of the hall, up the ramp and into firstly a vestibule area, and then the room itself. The chairs were set out in the usual welcoming horseshoe style, although with extras (us included) a second row was being added at the back.

Paul and Richard led the service, the hymns were on YouTube, and we sang lustily. Because of the ramp on the way in, and the windows not being floor length, you look out onto the branches of the trees; it just feels like you are in an upper room. And there is a good precedent for that!

There is even a small kitchen so no problem with coffee at the end of the service. Heating is not an issue in July but the size of the room makes it feel as though winter services will be quite cosy. Not too cosy we hope, don't want to hear snoring during the sermon!

Do visit CtK in their new home, a warm welcome is guaranteed, but remember you need to go round to the back of the school to find their upper room.

Sarah Penfold

THE POD PROJECT

There has long been a need for a toilet and kitchenette in St James's Church. Access to facilities in Church House is difficult because of having to cross a busy road and it is also not appropriate for church users to enter the building when it is in use by other groups. This is a project which will benefit not just the congregation but everyone who uses the church - schools, guests at baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as people attending events such as the Christmas Tree Festival and concerts.

The layout of the building and its listed status have made it difficult to find a suitable design, but we now have plans approved by the Diocese and are ready to start!

The toilet will be fully accessible and meet all disability requirements; the kitchen will be a 'cupboard kitchen' with storage units, work surfaces, a sink and small fridge concealed behind doors which can be opened fully when the kitchen is in use. You can see the plans that our architect has drawn up in St James Church or on our website - <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/the-pod-project>.

The facilities will be in a pod type construction – essentially a “building within the building” – which will minimise any structural work. It will be built on the existing concrete floor with sound-insulated timber-stud walls and a joisted flat roof/ceiling, then painted inside and out. The pod will be finished with painted panelled wood doors, with dark stained woodwork. A matching cornice will be added to the current lobby enclosure.

The total cost will be around £40-£45K, which is a daunting prospect. However, we have a plan! There are several grant-giving bodies who fund this type of project, some of which have helped us in the past and the first step is to demonstrate our commitment by raising 'partnership funding'. Our initial target is £20K but once we have £15K we can apply to the Benefact Trust to help us reach 50% of the project costs (around £22K). At this point, we can apply to the National Churches Trust and the Garfield Weston Trust for help to fund the remainder.

£15-£20K is still a lot, but we are on the case! In our partnership 'kitty' we have:

- £1500 paid by the PCC for the architect's plans

- £5000 pledged by the Friends of St James

- £1200 from the Grimmitt Trust, a local charity based in Kings Heath

- Over £3000 in parish donations since the launch of our appeal at the end of July

Applications are being sent to smaller grant-givers and we hope that some of these will succeed.

THE POD PROJECT continued

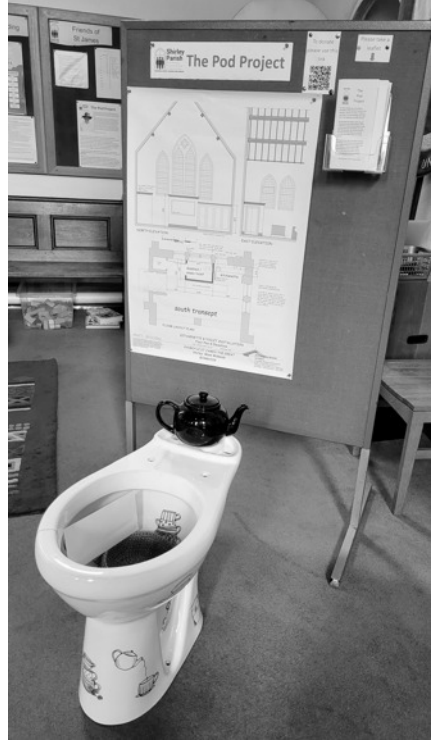
We have made a good start but we'll have to work very hard on this. Every bit counts not just financially, but as a symbol of our working together to make this happen.

Donations can be made online via the parish website or by cheque (payable to Shirley Parish PCC) or by cash. Please put cheques or cash in an envelope labelled "the Pod Project" and hand into the Parish Office or post through the Parish Office door.

Donations may also be made via the 'Convenience Collection Point' at the back of St James Church before and after services. Please also use the gift aid scheme if you pay tax.

Thank you!

Kate Crocker



WILL YOU SPONSOR US ON OUR WEE WALK ALONG THE WALL?

Kate and Paul will be walking the length of Hadrian's Wall – all 84 miles of it - from 19th to 25th September. They will be doing this to help raise money for the Pod Project.

If you would like to sponsor them please add your name to one of the forms in any of the churches, or go to the Parish website to make an online donation via the special link.



They will be producing a daily blog of their trip – more details will be in the pewslip nearer the time.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Birmingham

Linda Pitt opened our July meeting with prayers and welcomed all, with a particular warm welcome to Reverend Denise Jones our speaker, her husband Reverend Nigel Jones and Reverend Richard Haynes.

Dee gave a fabulous talk commencing with her recent celebration of her 25th anniversary since her ordination and the path she has followed since then, particularly as a hospital chaplain working in the ICU and premature baby unit at the Women's Hospital and with the baby loss bereavement team and within the psychiatric unit. Her love and passion in proclaiming the Gospel was very evident and this came through to us when she was speaking. From the feedback that we have received, everybody at the meeting enjoyed it immensely and this was very apparent whilst she was talking as you could have heard a pin drop.



We look forward to welcoming Ray Sturdy to our next meeting on **Wednesday 6th September** speaking on 'The Rise and Fall of Witley Court'. Ray Sturdy is an interesting speaker who has a wealth of knowledge on his subject.

Visitors are always most welcome to any of our meetings.

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

Susan Knight

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone at St James Church including all Religious leaders, Wardens, Readers and friends for the kindness, lifts, prayers, beautiful cards and flowers since my arrival home from Switzerland.

Unfortunately I was involved in an accident (not my fault) which occurred in the hotel where we were staying, on the second day of my holiday in Geneva. This resulted in surgery to repair two breaks in my left arm, and observation of a fractured eye brow and broken nose. Seven days was spent in the HUG Hospital. The treatment was second to none. I applaud the whole medical team. Meanwhile my husband, Norman, was well looked after at the hotel.

I am slowly recovering and the care from my GP, Heartlands Hospital Fracture Unit and now a Physiotherapist has also been excellent. I really hope to be fully back to normal and attending church services and helping at the Tuesday Welcome Cafe, which I love, Thursday Eucharist etc. before too long.

Thank you all again.

God bless you all, *Ann Blackford*



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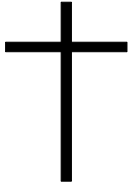
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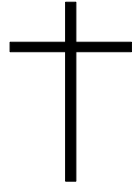
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Pigeon peas - REAPing benefits for the poor of Malawi

You may already have heard of the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project, since it was the headline for this year's Christian Aid appeal in May. It followed the devastation caused by Cyclone Freddy last March, which killed hundreds of people, destroyed crops and livelihoods and displaced 500,000 people. It is so sad and unfair that climate change is affecting the poorest on the planet so severely when they are the least to blame for it! Please pray for the project which runs until 2025 and aims to lift over 5000 households out of extreme poverty by training, loans and changing to climate-resilient crops, such as the very nutritious and versatile pigeon pea.

If, like me, it helps to have a name and place to think about, pray for Jen and Danica in Southern Malawi as their pigeon peas sprout and grow, allowing them to hope for a future that will not be marked by disasters.



'I know the plans I have for you', says the Lord,
'plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope'. Jeremiah 29:11

Kate Crocker

HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED



There was wonderful news recently when Liisa heard that her application to the National Lottery Fund had been successful. ADAVU has been awarded a grant which will allow them to support thirty women (and the occasional man) rescued from modern day slavery and trafficking for another three years. It is tragic that this work has to be funded by charitable support but that's life these days! The support that you have given through donations of toiletries and baby supplies has been invaluable –

the ladies can hardly believe that total strangers would help them in this way and many a tear of gratitude is shed. Once again Shirley Methodist Church will be helping with gifts for the Christmas parcels; but I have no doubt that you will be hearing from Sarah Penfold in due course about those!

The school holidays put quite a strain on supplies. As ever the constant need is for the basics - recently there wasn't even an adequate supply of tinned tomatoes or UHT milk.



Thank you for the cutlery and bowls etc. which the young men coming to St. John's satellite Food Bank for food need - they are staying at the local ex-offenders' hostel where such items tend to go missing! These lads look so young ... and whatever they have done, a little support goes a long way and is much appreciated.



At last all the clothing and domestic items have been gathered into one place, the warehouse down at Tyseley. It still needs sorting out into labelled boxes but hopefully that will happen soon. We will let you know when they are ready for more donations.

Thank you for your care, *Elizabeth Paice*



A PARISH PRAYER BOOK



Sometimes it's hard to find the right words when we want to pray and I am often asked to suggest prayers to use in different situations. To help with this we are producing a Parish Prayer Book with prayers we can use for each day and for particular occasions.

Have you got a prayer that you would like to contribute to the book?

Either email it to the Parish Office or jot it down and put it through the office letterbox. If you wish you can say why it is special to you. We will then make a selection with an aim to having the book available in the Autumn.

Reverend Paul Day

A GRAIN OF SAND AT A TIME

This autumn, do you feel overwhelmed with all the things that you need to get done?

It might help to think of your life as an hourglass.

There are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass; and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.

We are like that hourglass. When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks which we feel that we must accomplish that day. But if we do not take them one at a time, and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly, as do the grains of sand passing through the narrow neck of the hour glass, then we are bound to break our own fragile physical and mental structure.

Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.



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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, yoga and gardening support residents to stay fit and active.

Blossomfield Grange is designed with signage, colour schemes, soft furnishings and floor coverings all chosen to create a calm and accessible home from home. The dementia suite also includes extra items to aid reminiscence and create a sensory and engaging space. We also have our own café/bistro, hair salon and large established gardens, enabling all residents to enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle.

Blossomfield Grange care home
1 Worcester Way, Off Dog Kennel Lane,
Solihull B90 4JX
0121 756 7156
careuk.com/blossomfield-grange



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

THE DIVINE GARDENER

This is the time of year for many churches to hold their Harvest Festival services. There will be displays of food, some grown in local gardens. While gardeners have pleasure growing fruit and vegetables, it can be hard work tending to them.

Jesus knew about the care given to vines. In John 15:1-8 Jesus compared Himself to a vine and referred to God as the gardener. In this parable, God is responsible for pruning the vine. He sees what parts are useful, and what parts useless. The unproductive parts are cut away, so that growth is encouraged. Jesus is telling us that God will prune our lives, not to harm us, but to encourage our spiritual growth.

God's pruning cuts away wrong attitudes and wasteful behaviour, all of which serve no useful purpose in our lives. This pruning is required so that we become more fruitful. And the fruit God wants is love, joy, patience etc. (see Galatians 5:22-23) These holy qualities are intended to influence the world to change it from the bad to all that is good.

To encourage its growth, a vine has regularly to be cut back. The effect looks drastic, but it is still essential. When God cuts away the dead wood in our lives, He does it because He knows how our lives can grow. The pruning knives are in the hands of our Father God who only desires the best for us. This pruning process can be painful, but Jesus says that it is vital if the Holy Spirit is to flow through us to produce the fruit that God wants.

Also in this parable, Jesus said He was the Vine, and we are the branches. We have no existence apart from Jesus. We can do nothing for God on our own and must be joined to Jesus. In the same way a vine utilises the life-giving sap to flow into the branches, so we need the Holy Spirit to flow His life into us. It is only by us remaining in Jesus, that He can give us the inner resources for an effective fruit-producing life.

Jesus said, '*Abide in Me*' (John 15:4 King James Version). Abiding speaks of sustenance, being upheld and supported, enduring and withstanding. So, if we are to reap a harvest of holiness, may we be prepared for God's pruning, and continue to abide in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.



QUIET TIMES

This year I found myself seeking yet again, a quiet time with God, our Father.

I took with me Nicola Slee's book "Sabbath" where Wendall Berry's poem "I go among the trees and sit still" has been a very fulfilling start for me.

Where I stayed there is a wood and a nature trail that takes you through the trees and past the ponds, there are benches dotted about where you can sit by "the quiet waters" and, for me, meditate on why I was needing this quiet time.

I still do not find it necessary to talk to the trees, why should I when I can talk to God and reflect on his wonderful creation.

I have recently stepped down from Parish Warden and was feeling a little lost and I wondered if God was leading me anywhere, one door closes, and another opens so the saying goes. I spent a lot of my time reflecting on where my place in the church was going to be. We all have special gifts given to us by God, sometimes we need help from others to recognise and nurture them in order to do God's work. I know that wherever I am I will always try to do what I consider to be right by God.

My thoughts have been with the vulnerable of late and how much I care about how they are treated. We are all God's children, made in His image and should be treated with respect. Of course, not everyone will want our help. I remember Paul saying how he took it upon himself to take a rough sleeper to the shops to buy food, (never give money) when he came to the checkout the young man through his arms up and said he didn't want it and walked out, I really felt for Paul who obviously would have been embarrassed (do men get embarrassed, I do wonder sometimes!). At least Paul did try to help this young man, and this is all we can do, if we are rebuffed then move on and try again another time.

Before I left my oasis, I walked along the sea front and again thought about how my time had been spent.

On the next page is a poem written by Nicola Slee and one that I could relate to, I have permission from Nicola to print it.

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ALDEBURGH

There is no need
 to write a poem
 read a book
 though this is what I came for.

Sufficient to walk
 every morning
 every evening
 the flat pebbled shore
 notice colours
 the dun, the dappled, the dazzling
 taste spray on my lips
 let the body
 fill up with tiredness.

It is enough
 to sleep
 the long dreamless sleep
 no poems
 disturbing the ear.

Then wake
 to wander again
 on the shore
 see what patent
 God has mixed from his palette
 freshly squeezed
 sky washed clean by darkness
 worked again into
 poetry my eyes
 have never beheld
 until now.



*Nicola Slee "Sabbath" Page 98.
 Published 2019, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd*

May God Bless each one of us every day as we try to do His will.

Margaret Foreshew

WHAT'S ON



Shirley Gardening Society are meeting in Church House on the second Monday evening of the month at 7.30pm for their series of gardening talks.

September 11th will be on
"The Royal Gardens at Windsor"
October 9th will be "All about Roses"

All are welcome, Visitors £5 and Membership to August 2024 £15. Refreshments after the talk.

For more information please ring 0121 705 4530

Saturday 7th October
10am in Church House
Monday 9th October
10.30am in St John's Church



COFFEE MORNING



"St. James Church - Past, Present & Future"



The story of the Church from 1830
using photographs, documents and stories

The evening, to include **Cheese & Wine**, will be on

Friday, 8th September 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

In the Parish Church of St. James the Great

Tickets £10 from the Parish Office or through the "Friends of St. James"

WHAT'S ON

Every Tuesday in Church House - 10am until 11.30am

Pop in for a chat, a hot drink and
home-made cake at the

WELCOME CAFE

plus on Tuesday 26th September we will be having a

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PARISH HARVEST SUPPER - SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER - 6.30PM
in CHURCH HOUSE

Look out for more details in the weekly notice sheet

**Parish Harvest Festival
Service**

Sunday 1st October - 10.30am
in St James Church

Donations of tinned food and
money for the Food Bank welcome



HARVEST

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

In the space between magazine articles the Book Club has read two novels: 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime' by Mark Haddon, and 'Shakespeare's Mistress' by Karen Harper.

The reactions to both books have, as usual, been diverse - ranging from 'ridiculous' to 'I loved it'. I suppose it's this range of responses that makes the Book Club so exciting and such a worthwhile way of keeping our minds ticking over.

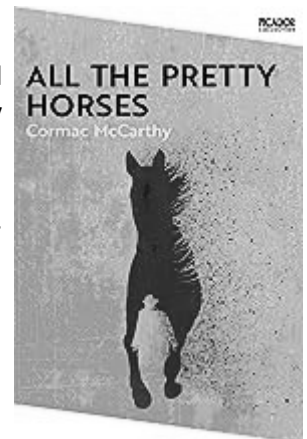
On the surface, Mark Haddon's novel seems to be about a difficult boy - who might have Asperger's Syndrome - who sets out to solve the mystery of a dog that someone has killed during the night. It's the Asperger's element of the narrative that, probably, our group found most intriguing. Recently, the author of the novel, Mark Haddon, (despite the book's initial publicity) has denied that it's a book about Asperger's or autism. He says it's a book about the differences between people. Given that the investigation examines all the characters (suspects) in considerable detail, this is a plausible interpretation. Book Club readers, however, took this view a step further. They saw it as not just a story about differences, but more than that, a story about individual weaknesses. Everyone has their own shortcomings. The only relatively flawless character is the schoolteacher - who is the narrator in the stage version of the novel. Several of us found this very satisfying (ex-teachers), but several found it irritating!

The second novel, 'Shakespeare's Mistress' should have been less contentious. It wasn't.

It explores the possible real-life origin of 'the dark lady of the sonnets' and follows her secret relationship with Shakespeare as he travels back and forth from Stratford to London. The writing of the plays and sonnets, contemporary writers and actors and issues around the persecution of Roman Catholics form the backdrop. In many ways, it's simply a very absorbing historical novel set very often in places we know, just down the road in Warwickshire.

Several of us found the novel a rollicking and engrossing, good read, others simply found it hard to believe. That's Shirley Parish Book Club for you!

The next read is 'All the Pretty Horses' by Cormac McCarthy. A love story, perhaps? Certainly, an engrossing page turner.



At our September meeting we will be discussing the launch of the Book Club anthology. This is a short collection of writings by Book Club members and their friends/relatives. I have to say, Belinda has done an amazing job bringing these amazing pieces of writing together. Every one of them has at least one memorable moment or phrase. Watch out for a chance to buy a copy - to support a parish project.

The next meeting is on **Monday 18th September** in Church House at 2.30pm.

Ray Speakman



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HOLY YEAR WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - Part 4

In Parts 1-3 (May, June, July/August 2023 Parish Magazines) I related our pilgrimage route from Leon in Northern Spain towards the shrine of St James the Great in Santiago de Compostela. There were three of us: my husband Dave, myself and our friend Revd Colin Jones. The distance to be covered was 302 kilometres and we expected it to take us eleven days. We had spent the night at a 'not pilgrim friendly' Casa Rural in Linares.

We were happy to leave our damp Casa Rural and our hostess watched us from her bedroom window in her night attire. Our objective that day was to reach Triacastela, a village in a mountain valley.

As we walked and talked, Colin, told us of a man who spends his life walking the Camino. He will not sleep in a Refuge preferring to leave the beds for other pilgrims and so sleeps out of doors. Dave joked about my poor sense of direction and said that he could also end up walking the route searching for me shouting: "Theresa! Theresa!" We all laughed and carried on. At a junction on the route Dave stopped to pay some attention to a problem with one of his boots. He told me to carry on. Instead of continuing up the hill path I took the other fork downhill. I thought I was doing really well and walked along confidently and at a good speed.

After a couple of kilometres of quite fast walking I began to wonder where Dave was and I had seen no other pilgrims. I thought I heard a man calling his dog, but apparently it was Dave calling me. He had gone along the route for some time and caught up with Colin who had gone on ahead to find a place for breakfast. Feeling rather silly asking such a question Dave enquired if I had passed him. Of course I hadn't! They were both somewhat baffled as to where I could be. Dave left his rucksack and began to retrace his steps, with many pilgrims telling him he was going the wrong way. At the junction he realised what had happened. He ran down the hill shouting: "Theresa! Theresa!" and all of a sudden became aware that this was exactly what he had joked about earlier. It was a self-fulfilling prophesy! He vowed to be very careful what he said in future on this Camino. When he eventually reached me he was, it has to be said, not best pleased. He took my rucksack and we began to climb back up the hill accompanied by an awkward silence ... oh dear, another threat to the marriage.

But my misfortunes were not all over yet. We stopped, after a very steep climb, at a café for breakfast. Knowing that I had a lot of change in my small handbag I got it out of my rucksack and volunteered to pay for breakfast for the three of us, thinking also to lighten the load and make a kind of gesture of repentance for delaying our trek. Nicely refreshed, we took water and set off again.

...continued over the page

HOLY YEAR WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA *continued*

After 6K we stopped for a well-earned coffee. To my horror I realised that I had left my handbag on the back of the chair at the previous café. Let us say that due to other people's generosity and pilgrim honesty the handbag was recovered ... but not before poor Dave had yet another extra journey while Colin and I waited with the backpacks for him to return. Ah well ... what are husbands for? Fortunately, one of the staff at the café gave Dave a lift back. A friend of mine who has walked many pilgrimages tells me that she always feels as though she is being 'taken care of' as she journeys. That went through my mind and I gave thanks.

We travelled on again in an even greater silence, seeing some impressive and elegant pilgrims on horseback to cheer us up as we went. They stopped at a certain point, tables were laid by their attendants and they sat down to a magnificent spread under the trees. All sorts and conditions of people make this pilgrimage to Santiago.

We arrived at Triacastella and put up at a 'Meson'. The word I understand means 'big table'. The place was run by a family. As we settled into our rooms a thunderstorm started. We came down into the small front snug bar in order to get coffee. The rain was torrential. A coach party of women arrived all very well dressed. The rain was so heavy that they couldn't get out of the coach to come into the hotel. Lightning was flashing and fork lightening could be seen on the mountainside. Suddenly all the lights went out, we were left in darkness and the windows were shaking. Candles were fetched and lit. I then noticed that the grandmother of the family was fervently praying and blessing, with her rosary beads, the door and the window.

Colin, who speaks fluent Spanish, picked up her dialect and said that she was praying to St Anthony to protect the house and divert the storm. Her son-in-law came over and told her not to frighten the customers! He came our way also and brought us some of that delicious Empanada. The rain eased and the coach party came in. It was rather crowded by now and we wondered whether any proper dinner would be possible. Efforts were made to get a generator to work; all to no avail. After about another hour ... Hooray! The lights came on and it was all systems go for steak and chips. In no time at all we were all dining including the coach party. Once again we had every reason to be thankful. 'Blessed be the Lord, who bears our burdens day by day'. Psalm 68 verse 18.

Leaving the Meson at 8.20am next morning after a good breakfast we headed towards Sarria along leafy lanes with lovely views. We were entertained by a mature looking ewe who, clearly refusing to be intimidated by a sheepdog, decided to kick him and put him to shame. We stopped for lunch at the edge of the town and went up the hill leading to Barbadelo.

The horseback pilgrims came up behind us and looked a stunning sight as they came to the brow of the hill. We were very hot and continued on until we came to another Casa Rural. This was a farmhouse which had been renovated and made suitable for pilgrim guests. It was 250 years old and was magnificent. It was a working farm and as we tried to hang our washing on the line a goose began to attack Colin! However, we had a very relaxing time in the garden with chickens and dogs running around us. Colin decided to walk to the church in the hamlet, which is dedicated to St James, but Dave and I just sat in the garden, grateful for the rest. As we sat there I noticed what I thought were mice running along between the roof and guttering of the house. I didn't say anything to Dave in case I put him off the place but later learned that both he and Colin had seen them but didn't want to tell me. They were, in fact, somewhat larger than mice!

That evening we dined on hake, pork and eggs, sausage and mutton ... and there was pasta as well. The dessert was delightful, it was Cuajada which is a type of junket, served with honey and that was the first time we had ever heard of Cuajada. Although I now have the ingredients I somehow feel that I shall not be able to re-create it exactly as we enjoyed it ... delicious ... and we had walked 24K to get it.

To be continued ...

Reverend Theresa Jones



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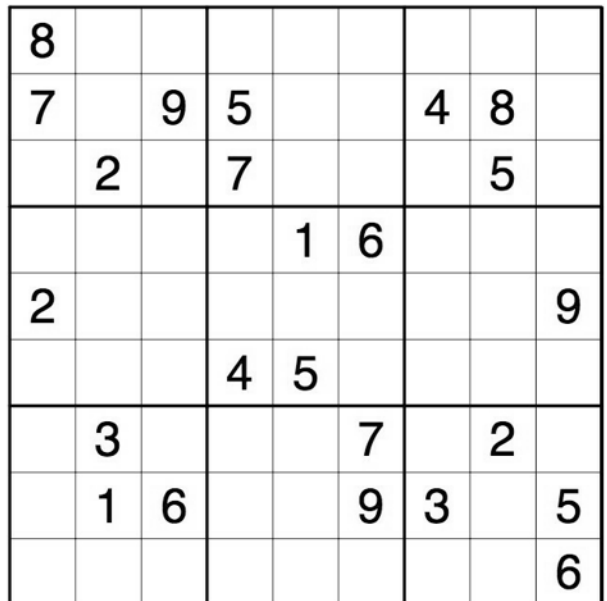
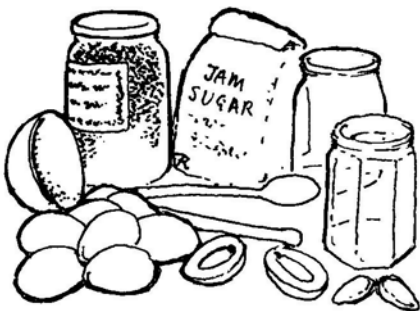
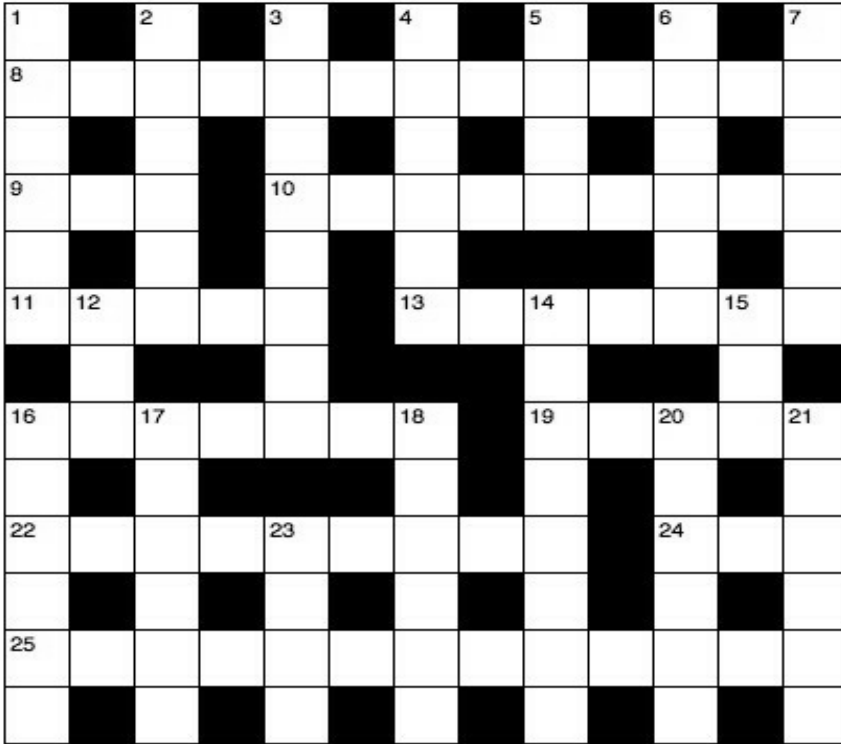
Across

- 8** Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9** One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10** Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
- 11** 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13** Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16** 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
- 19** Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22** Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down** 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25** There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1** Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2** See 24 Across
- 3** Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4** Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5** The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6** 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7** Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12** 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14** Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15** United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16** One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17** Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18** — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20** 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21** 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23** What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

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SEPTEMBER WORDSEARCH - ANGELS

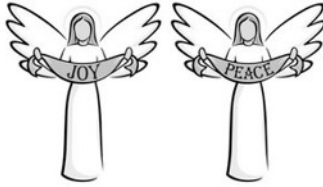
For some reason, the Church gives thanks for angels in September.

The 29th is the feast day of Michael and All Angels. Since the days of Genesis, these messengers of God have been sent many times to intervene for the good in human affairs.

Angels guarded the Garden of Eden, they led Lot away from Gomorrah, they helped Gideon, they stopped Balaam, they closed the mouths of lions for Daniel, and, most important, the archangel Gabriel was sent to tell Mary that she would mother the Messiah.

Angels sat in the empty tomb of Jesus, and told of His Resurrection. Revelation is teaming with angels, sent on all sorts of missions by God in the last times.

Today, many Christians in the world's hot spots report having had angels help them when in mortal danger.



Answers are on page 31

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ALL
 ANGELS
 ARCHANGEL
 BALAAM
 CHURCH
 DANGER
 DANIEL
 EDEN
 FEAST
 GABRIEL
 GARDEN
 GENESIS
 GIDEON
 GOD
 INTERVENE
 LIONS
 LOT
 MARY
 MESSENGERS
 MICHAEL
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3	8	5	9	1	6	2	4	7
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M	I	I	N	A	E	L	T	H	A	N	K	S
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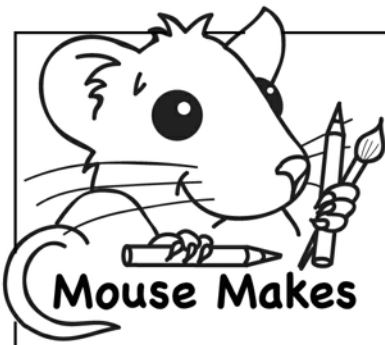


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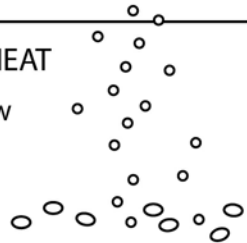
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THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow amongst the wheat?

Matthew 13:25



READ

the parable in

Matthew 13 v24-30,
and **v36-43**

At harvest time the weeds are gathered, bundled then

but the wheat is stored

in the -----
Matthew 13:30

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

What does the field represent?

the -----

and who is the good seed?

The people of the -----

Matthew 13:38

Who sows the weeds?

The -----

Who are the harvesters?

The -----
Matthew 13:39

"He who has ears, let him -----"
Matthew 13:43

T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	S	H	E	A	R
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D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	D	D	V	A

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16th	Aurthur Mills
23rd	George Bohemia Harry Bohemia
30th	Thomas Lawrence



Funerals

25th	Donald James Parkes Ramon Lancelot Josphe Biddle
------	---

Internment of Ashes

28th	Ronald George Grainger
------	------------------------

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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*

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

***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.***

***If anything is concerning you, please talk to Sue Harries, Safeguarding Co-ordinator,
or Paul Day, Vicar.***

We must all look after one another.



PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Surgery and Home Visits

JONATHAN LEESE D.Pod.M., M.Ch.S

HCPC REGISTERED

Tel: 0121 733 1292

193 Creynolds Lane, Shirley B90 4ES



SHIRLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
Stratford Road, Opp. Longmore Road
INDOOR SHORT MAT BOWLING



Wednesdays 2pm, Fridays 10am & Tuesdays 7pm
Wednesday & Friday No Experience Necessary as Tuition Given
Tuesday League Bowling

COME AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS



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



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