



June
2023

SHIRLEY PARISH



KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN

Shirley Parish Magazine



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

CLERGY

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Social Media: [twitter.com/@ParishB90](https://twitter.com/ParishB90)

facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

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

PARISH OFFICE
is open Monday to
Friday (except Bank
Holidays)
9.30am - 12.30pm

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

OUR SERVICES IN JUNE

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Thursday 1st	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 4th Trinity Sunday	10.30am 6pm	Parish Communion Reflective Worship	St James Church St John's Church
Thursday 8th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 11th	8am 9am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	St James Church St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church
Thursday 15th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 17th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 18th	9am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship Holy Communion Morning Worship	St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church
Thursday 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 25th	8am 9am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Worship 4 Everyone Holy Communion	St James Church St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church
Thursday 29th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church

Recordings/live streams -

<https://www.youtube.com/ShirleyParishB90>

Copies of the sermons can be found on our website -

<https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/download-a-sermon>



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

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

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the May winners

£50 ~ Sophie Ray £25 ~ Jill Hall

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the next six months (June to November) are now due - £13 for six months - £26 for twelve months.

Please make cheques payable to "Friends of St James 100 Club".

Subscriptions may be handed into the Parish Office or posted to Lynda McPherson,
90 Dickens Heath Road, Shirley B90 1RL

JULY & AUGUST 2023 PARISH MAGAZINE

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY

Monday 12th June 2023



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VICAR'S REPORT TO THE APCM

I hope you have had the chance to look at what I wrote in the APCM papers circulated before the meeting – some of the many, many things that have happened through this last year. Many things to thank God for and rejoice over.

And as I was thinking through all those things it struck me just how many people from our churches were involved. From overseeing the refurbishment of Church House to serving at the Welcome Cafe; from delivering magazines to preaching on a Sunday morning; from caring for the churchyard to leading a study group. Thank you all. All the wonderful volunteers who make what we do and who we are possible.

A very fitting reminder that it is not my church, its ours. In fact it is us. We are the church.

So where are we as one Parish, as three churches, as seven congregations – where are we heading in the year ahead. What might the future hold?

Last year at the APCM we talked about five areas of challenge

- each of us growing in faith
- children and families
- seven congregations, three churches, one parish
- meeting the needs of the wider community
- buildings (with the caveat that these are a means to an end!)

And we can see how we have made progress in these areas -

- four of our members being confirmed; one being welcomed into the Church of England; growing numbers at Lent and JoT groups; a good take-up for the prayer and readings booklets at Advent and Lent
- Success of Jimmy Tots, Messy Church, Journey to the Stable and Easter Journey, development of our work in schools, baptisms
- Tweaking of service pattern to what we have now and a deepening of relationships across the Parish
- Silver award for Eco Church; Welcome Café being a real community café; the Jubilee celebrations last summer; the Sunday Lunch Club
- Refurbishment of Church House, progress on the plans for a toilet and kitchen in St James Church

This year we shouldn't lose sight of those things, but there are also some more specific areas to look forward to:

... continued over the page

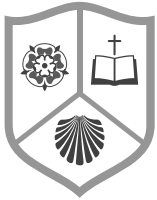
VICAR'S REPORT TO THE APCM continued

1. Consolidating the ministry team. Wendy Martin is now well established as part of the team, and Richard Haynes joins us shortly plus our four readers. The Diocese is moving towards an oversight system which brings parishes together to work as oversight areas. However, they recognise that we are already doing that – we are and will be our own oversight area. And we are doing it with the strong and effective team we have. We are in many ways a model in the way lay and ordained work together – and I hope as we continue to develop what we have here we can share what we do with others
2. Chris Kynaston has just started as Parish Operations Manager in the office. Yes, it is sad to see Ellie and Hannah go, but let us see this as an opportunity to think how best the work of the office can support the ministry and mission of the Parish
3. How can we build on what we have established with children and families. Areas to look at are the need to integrate Messy Church – to help the families who come to really feel part of who we are – and also to continue to develop how we engage with children Sunday by Sunday – one example being the new fourth Sunday Worship 4 Everyone at St James Church
4. Discipleship – each of us growing in our faith through prayer, bible reading, worship, sermons and groups. This is of course building on what we have already been doing. Building on the encouragements of Advent, Lent and the Coronation booklets used by many. and the groups based upon them. Giving further opportunities for those finding out more about the Christian faith through things like START and Moving On courses
5. The project to install a kitchen and toilet in the south transept of St James Church – perhaps the major buildings project for the Parish as we look forward. We are almost at the point of getting approval by the Diocesan Advisory Committee; the next stages are obtaining quotes, raising funds and then the project management. Maybe first we need to find a catchy name for the project rather than “kitchen and toilet”. I hope my suggestion of the tea and pee project can be improved upon!
6. And then there are financial challenges! Fuel bills, additional team members, more mission activities, building maintenance and development. This requires us all to consider our giving and to look upon what we give as part of our response to the overwhelming generosity of God.

VICAR'S REPORT TO THE APCM continued

The former Bishop of Birmingham used to say that our mission as parish churches was to grow more and more confident Christians. I believe all these thoughts and hopes about the year ahead can contribute to that as we seek to live out and proclaim the gospel of Jesus here in Shirley. And I hope you are as excited as I am to be part of this journey we are on together.

Reverend Paul Day



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Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Birmingham

Val Sperrey opened our May meeting and welcomed Anthea Tinline who gave an interesting and enthusiastic talk on her parent's early years in Newfoundland/Labrador. Anthea's Mum was born in Canada and her father in the UK. They met and married when he went out to Canada as a missionary. In later years they moved back to this country. Alongside her talk there was a table of artefacts relating to their years spent in Newfoundland and Labrador.

We look forward to welcoming Sue Stanley to our next meeting on **Wednesday 6th June** speaking on 'Home from Hospital', an independent Birmingham charity working to support patients being discharged from hospital.

Visitors are always most welcome to any of our meetings.

MU Theme for 2022-2024 is **Transformation – Now**

Susan Knight

OUR NEW PARISH OPERATIONS MANAGER

Starting any new job can be a difficult time for anyone, especially when taking over from a team that has worked so hard and been so integral to the life of a church for such a long time, but the welcome I have received since starting as the new Shirley Parish Operations Manager has been so gratefully appreciated. It has really made the transition from Ellie and Hannah to myself a really easy and pleasant experience.



As I am getting to know you all, I thought I would tell you a little about myself. I was born and brought up just down the road in Hall Green and still live there with my wife Marisa and our little fluffy family (2 Cats, 2 Guinea Pigs and 2 Mice). Marisa was brought up in Shirley Parish and was even baptised at St James. While we know the area well, it is exciting for us to be joining a new church family.

I am an ex-Cathedral Verger and can sometimes still be found Verging at Birmingham Cathedral on big occasions. I have also worked at Holy Trinity Stratford-Upon-Avon and bring that experience of two very different churches with me. I also sat on Shirley Deanery Synod for nine years as part of the PCC of Church of the Ascension Hall Green. I have felt called by God from a very early age and view my position within Shirley Parish not merely as a job, but a vocation. I believe that God has called us together to work towards delivering the best for Shirley, and I will endeavour to do whatever I can to support our ministry.

I am an experienced administrator, most recently working for the Civil Service. I have developed and learned many new systems over the years, and I am always looking for ways to progressively adapt and develop the way we work. I am a firm believer in creating an environmentally friendly, efficient yet comprehensive experience for all. I aim to bring that same belief with me into my role here at Shirley.

Moving forward I will be working alongside the ministry team and the PCC to develop and expand the services we provide not only for the congregations of the three churches, but the parish as a whole. I will look to ensure that everything we do is ecologically friendly, effective, and more accessible for all. I will be looking to build on the great foundations we already have in place.

I know that we have an exciting future ahead of us, and I look forward to working with you all. I am in the Parish Office every weekday from 9.30am – 12.30pm, so please feel free to pop in and say hello. I am always happy to have visitors, especially if coffee and biscuits are involved!

Chris Kynaston

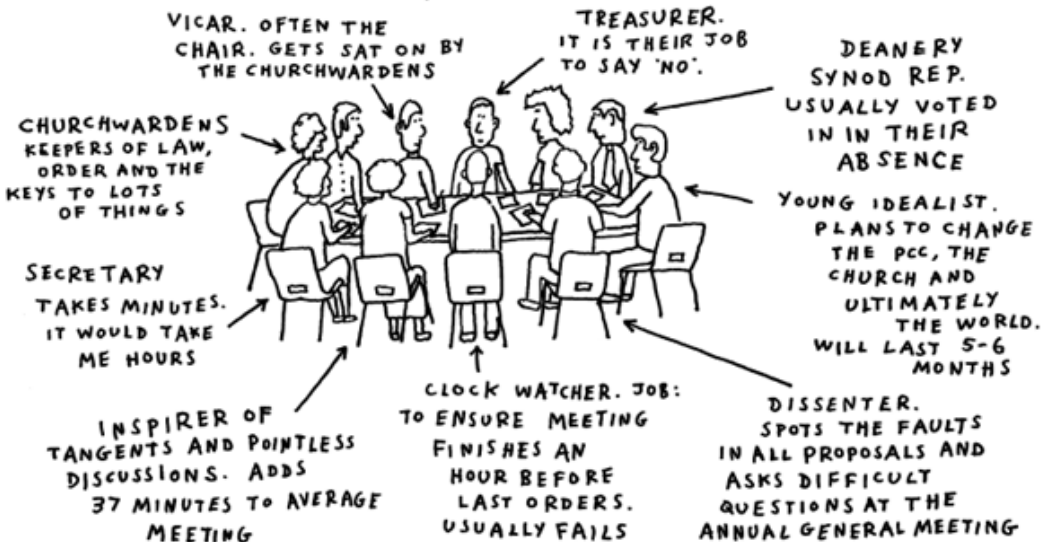
OUR NEW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Following our Annual Meeting (APCM) the members of our PCC are shown below. There are currently two vacancies if you'd like to join us ...

Licensed Clergy	Reverend Paul Day Reverend Wendy Martin
Parish Wardens	Gill Hanton, Linda Pitt
Deanery Synod representatives	Kate Crocker, Margaret Foreshew, Gill Gough
Elected members	Linda Alford, Kate Day, Jan Gardner, Ian Longbotton (Treasurer), David Paice, Belinda Piasecki (Secretary), Denise Smith, Mark Strentz, Chris Terry, Jean Wall
Elected Reader	Sarah Penfold

THE P.C.C.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS EVERY NOW AND THEN TO DISCUSS THINGS TO DO WITH THE CHURCH. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PART OF IT



FACILITIES

We all know that the 'conveniences' for people using St James's Church are not convenient at all. Getting across the road to Church House is difficult for anyone with children or for people with reduced mobility and if another group is already using the buildings there are issues with interrupting them to access the toilets and also with safeguarding.



The possibility of having a toilet in the church building has been discussed for many years but we now have plans for siting a single toilet with disabled access in the south transept. We plan to put a mini kitchen next to it so that refreshments can be served without traipsing to and from Church House.



The Diocese is happy with the latest plans and a Faculty application has been sent.

This will cost a lot of money, at least £40,000 on the best early estimates. Large charities such as the National Churches Trust and the Benefact Trust give substantial grants for this sort of project but we will need to raise partnership funding of around £13,000.

I think we need to cast our fundraising net as widely as possible. I have started looking for grants from small charities and will write some appeal letters to prospective individual donors. The Friends will look at the project at their next meeting. I'm hoping that church members and organisations will think about putting on little fundraising events - tea parties, sales of plants or crafts, sponsored activities, quizzes etc. - it all mounts up.

It would be wonderful if by this time next year we had new facilities in the church. Let's make it happen.

Kate Crocker

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HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED



ADAVU: the second Moses basket has been collected for the other baby (also a boy?) (The first one arrived safe and sound, mother and baby doing very well.) This was the best collection yet! The Moses basket itself was filled with spare bedding and 0-3 months clothing, a suitcase had maternity and breast pads. There were three boxes of first size nappies and wet wipes, a carrier bag of 3-6 months clothing, plus a dressing gown for the Mum-to-Be when she goes into hospital, plus toiletries for mum and baby, and the odd toy. It looked fantastic! The night before Liisa was due to collect it we were asked for a new born baby's pushchair, and the very next morning we found one at the tip - it had been standing out in the rain for ages gathering dirt and leaves but after David gave it a clean it looked wonderful! It even had a rain cover, and I found some spare bedding for it. Over the years I have given up being surprised at how things turn up out of the blue in the nick of time - it's quite extraordinary! So, an enormous 'Thank You' to everyone who helped with supplying items for both ADAVU babies these past months.

The **NARTHEX** is reorganising itself, hoping to get all the clothing, domestic items and children's toys/books on one site. In the meantime they have stopped all collections. We will let you know when they start again.

FOOD BANK: as ever these days the queues of folks seeking help continues to grow. I know that one member of the parish made a repeat visit to one of the distribution centres recently and could not believe her eyes at the length of the line of folks waiting patiently to collect their parcels. If you can help with tins of tomatoes, packets of tea bags and tinned fruit please do. One of my personal joys is to give out dolls and books to children who come in their pushchairs to the St John's Food Bank satellite – so 'Thank You' once more to you lovely folks who dress the dolls, they do get some lovely smiles from their new owners.

What a world! But even drops in the ocean help...

Elizabeth Paice

CORONATION CAFE AND PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Thinking about the Coronation of King Charles III that would take place on May 6th was a conversation that Pat and I had, we both were wondering should we do our cafe and ploughmans celebrations before or after? Then we realised the ploughmans would be two weeks after the event so set the plan for before, to help to get people excited about the Parish event on the big day itself that was happening in St James Church, plus we were sharing the tablecloths and bunting, flags etc.

So, the Welcome Cafe was all done out in red, white and blue with bunting and flags, whereas the tables for the ploughmans lunch were a much grander affair with wine glasses and one long table.

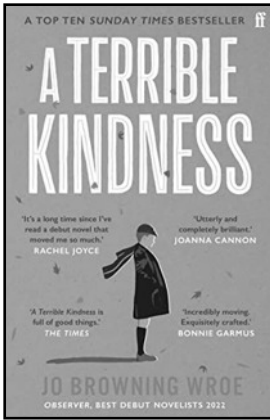


Both celebrations were very much enjoyed by the people attending and there were lots of conversations around what kind of King will Charles be? He will have a shorter reign than his mother, will his Queen Camilla support him etc. etc. so yes, I think we set the scene for the big event on the Saturday. God save our King.

Denise Smith



SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB



I suspect that most of us in the Book Club remember the Aberfan disaster of 1966: 116 children and 28 adults were killed when the village and its school were buried under a mountain of coal waste. Jo Browning Wroe's novel, *A Terrible Kindness*, tells this story through the eyes of William Lavery, a young embalmer who goes to help. Already struggling to overcome the earlier death of his father and tensions with his mother, the Aberfan disaster further scars him.

The story then moves back to his time as a chorister. Never happier than when singing alongside his best friend Martin, that relationship ends – almost at the same time as his relationship with his mother is shattered by her disapproval of his gay uncle.

Later William marries his childhood sweetheart Gloria, but then leaves her because of his determination not to have children. Clearly he is mentally scarred – a state of mind that appears to make him act in quite selfish ways. The novel subsequently becomes the story of his attempts at redemption and restoring hope.

This search for redemption leads William to return to Aberfan accompanied by his abandoned wife, Gloria, and his lost best friend, Martin.

Most of the Book Club, it is probably fair to say, found William difficult to like. He seems to 'spoil so much for the people who love him' as one of our readers said, and most of the book is overwhelmingly sad. Yet in the end we find hope through William's redemption. Another of our group said, 'Thank God for Betty' - William realises through meeting Betty again how his singing on that terrible day in 1966 comforted so many bereaved parents. It is a remarkably moving last chapter to the novel.

One of the group concluded: 'The Aberfan disaster happened to someone else. We said how awful, said a prayer for them but then got on with our lives. The first chapter is heart breaking. I wanted to stay there and read no more. William's world is thrown into fearful confusion. Then love and patience win the day'. His wife, mother and friend deserve this ending.

The next book that one of our group has chosen for us to read is, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night-time* by Mark Haddon.



Ray Speakman

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS TO OUR RECYCLING?



If we look up “recycling” on Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council’s website, we find a list of policies giving us the “dos and don’ts” to which we should adhere. Like many, I am really pleased with the service we receive. Our black bin has very little to empty and our brown recycling bin is always fuller. I am beginning to wonder if this is really such a good thing.

Perhaps what we need to ask is, “What actually happens to all our recycling collections?” and we would hope that it all becomes re-usable in some form or another. But... casting no aspersions on our council directly - what does really happen? If we are responsible for looking after God’s wonderful creation, maybe we should delve deeper. That is not as easy as it sounds!

In an article I read recently, on the Easy Peasy Greeny website (<https://easypeasygreeny.co.uk>), I found this:

“Thousands of tonnes of our household plastic packaging put out for recycling, as well as other kinds of plastic waste, ends up in waste incinerators in the UK and there is a lot that is sent overseas which ends up being someone else’s problem.”

This makes me feel both guilty and helpless. We all want to do our bit but are we unknowingly doing as much harm as good? We cannot claim to be reducing our carbon footprint when we just shift it onto another, poorer country. What can we do?

The current situation puts the onus on the consumer, like taking a pill for a pain without identifying the cause of the pain. The manufacturers need to focus on ridding themselves of needless plastics and fixing the issue at source.

You can write to individual manufacturers of products you use when you see a reasonable alternative to their packaging. **You can ask them why the responsibility is being put on the customer when the problem really does lie with their packaging.**

Government action gets results. Think back to when we all used free plastic bags at supermarkets. It took a tax levied on plastic bags to reduce their use. **Lobby your MP and ask the questions you think could make a difference.**

When I was in Western Australia last year, I took a photo of this poster.



If they can do it, why can't we? We need to put pressure on the government.

Make informed choices when you buy - avoid plastic whenever and however you can. It takes some planning, but it is only with a concerted effort from us all that we can make a difference.

Please post your findings on the Eco board in St James Church.

Chris Speakman

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MY EXMOUTH HOLIDAY

How very exciting; a few of us got together at the invitation from Pat Powell and the Home Guard Club to all go on a holiday together. So off we went on a Sunday morning in April on a coach to sunny Exmouth in Devon.

We all went on the day excursion trips to Dawlish, famous for its Black Swans, and Teignmouth, and an exceptionally wet day in Torquay. Also, the beautiful Exeter Cathedral. On two of the days we were left to do "our own thing ". Some went on a train ride to Paignton and others off to Brixham.

Our little group decided on a trip round the Jurassic coastline on a rather choppy, windy day on the estuary, but we all loved it seeing the rugged coastline and the birds that had begun nesting there, Kittiwakes and Cormorants, for the summer months. There are also Oystercatchers and Purple sandpipers but none were visible that day.

It's the Royal Marine's Rifle training ground on the headland of Straight Point and although we could quite clearly hear them practicing firing the rifles, it didn't seem to disturb or upset the birds in any way.

The Jurassic coast starts here and we could see the geoneedle that is reached by a rugged pathway beside the life boat station.

The coast walk is 12.5 miles and covers a stunning section of the 95 miles of the Jurassic coast, a Unesco World Heritage Site.

Once back on dry land the wind had got up so it was off for a nice bowl of warming soup for our group while others drifted off into town.

In the evenings, when everyone had had their evening meal, we would gather in the entertainments lounge and swap our stories of where we had been and what we had done. Then eyes down for Bingo which a few of us were lucky enough to win, myself included in that. Then the dancing began where by my partner was a young man of 21 who really wanted to learn a line dance so I spent several nights teaching him the one and only line dance that I know.

What a laugh we had and gave everyone else a laugh watching us but learn it he did and on the last night we danced together with no instruction from me at all; he had finally mastered it and much to both our surprise we got a standing ovation and a round of applause!

We had lots of laughs including seeing Pat and the young man riding on a children's ride in Dawlish, myself chasing off sea gulls in full arm flapping mode so they could enjoy their ice creams in peace, only to have mine robbed off me by one after hitting me on my head first! Revenge is sweet so they say.

The day we went to Torquay it just rained heavily all day. Audrey was on a mobility scooter so we dressed her in a bright orange cagoule and she looked just like a caped crusader speeding along the pavements looking for a coffee house, with us following like drowned rats.

I am sure if you chat to the others there are a lot more funny stories to be heard but one thing for sure we all agreed it was good fun and a good way for some of us to get a holiday as when you are on your own its hard to go away by yourself.

We all thank God for the memories made and new friendships formed; we can't wait for the next one.

Love and prayers, *Denise Smith (Reader)*





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EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW ... I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK



1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're very old someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Author unknown



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HOLY YEAR WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - Part 2



In Part 1 (May issue), I described the start of our walking pilgrimage. There were three of us, myself, my husband Dave and our friend Revd Colin Jones. We set out from Leon to Foncebadon towards our goal which was the shrine of St James the Great in Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. The pilgrimage was to take us eleven days.

From Foncebadon, where we had spent the night, we began a climb of 1,500 metres to head for Ponferrada. After 2K we came to the Cruz de Ferro, an iron cross which is a famous landmark on the Camino placed there originally to help pilgrims find their way across the mountains. Traditionally, each pilgrim adds a stone brought from home to the huge cairn below the cross. There is a St James chapel there dating from the Holy Year in 1982.

As we walked we saw a man in front, obviously in pain, and reaching him discovered that he had taken off his boots and was walking in sandals. He said he was from Germany, his name was Eric, and he had trouble with his big toe. He had set out with a group of friends but as he didn't want to hold them up told them: 'You go your way and I'll go mine'. He was going to get on to the road route which would be easier. One couldn't help but feel sorry for him, but Eric was just one example of the courage to be found on the Camino. Becoming philosophical I thought that this route was very much like life, we can set out O.K. and things so often go wrong, but we have to keep going and like Eric just plod on hopefully in faith.

We carried on through the abandoned village of Manjarin and on to El Acebo. Here the houses are quite ancient, but still lived in, with their balconies overhanging the road and its central gutter. In the church is a statue of St James the Pilgrim and leaving the village a memorial to a German cyclist killed there, which reminds one of the need to take care and watch where you're going since each year some pilgrims lose their lives through accidents on the route.

Descending to the plain of Molinaseca there was a beautiful aroma. It came, apparently, from the Spanish Gum Cistus tree (Roman Catholics might say it is the presence of the Virgin Mary). At the same time there was a wonderful sense of silence. The descent was steep, and hard on the calf muscles, but it was just a case of putting one foot in front of the other. As I walked I said the Jesus Prayer over and over and over again: 'Jesus Christ, Son of God have mercy on me a sinner' and that was a great help.

At Molinaseca we found a restaurant, it looked expensive but we didn't care, we were just glad to take off our boots and rucksacks for a while. On the menu was 'Caldo', a cabbage and potato soup with sweet paprika and a small amount of dripped fat from hanging meat: delicious - and that is an understatement. As they say: 'hunger is the best sauce'. After the soup, a good rest and some attention to blisters (which we treated with lamb's wool); we then wandered around the town. It has a Romanesque bridge: Puente de Peregrinos (bridge of the pilgrims) and below it the river is dammed to provide excellent swimming and a welcome paddle for sore feet.

We set out again refreshed - and lo and behold to our amazement as we left the town, there ahead of us was Eric. He had not stopped at all and was just travelling on at his one pace. Although my husband, Dave, being of a sceptical nature had his suspicions that he had thumbed a lift!

We arrived at Ponferrada at 5pm having walked approx. 17 miles and went to see the church of Our Lady of the Oak Tree, in Spanish called: 'Senora de la Encina'. Managing to find a good hotel, we showered and did our washing, which is always a priority. With such temporary luxury we began to think of ourselves as the 'en-suite pilgrims!' and went out for a gentle stroll. Ponferrada is a city in two distinct halves, the unspoilt and picturesque old quarter and across the river the modern and industrial area. It has the imposing 12th century Castillo de los Templaros: a perfect example of a medieval Templar castle. There were magnificent views all around and from an Information Centre we got a 'sello' (stamp) in our pilgrim passports. Until recently Ponferrada had a massive slag heap but now there is no sign of it, much to the delight of the inhabitants of the town.

Now, back to the Hotel Castillo for dinner. It was calamares and lacon (a type of loin) lamb chops and whiskey tarta all washed down with a good bottle of red wine, which according to Colin acts as an antiseptic on the stomach! And so to bed. What more could one want after such a hard day?

To be continued....

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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

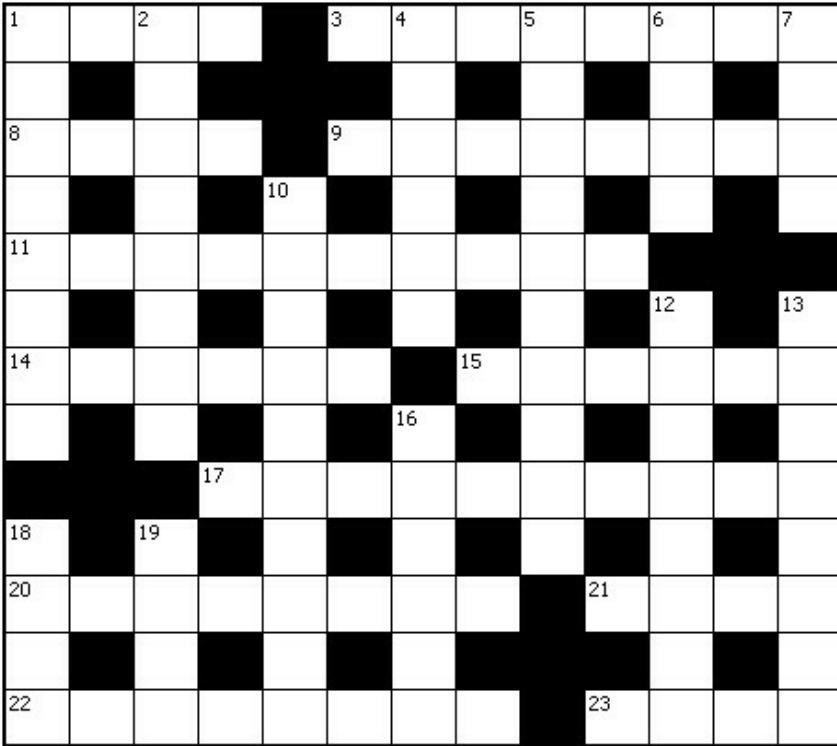
Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

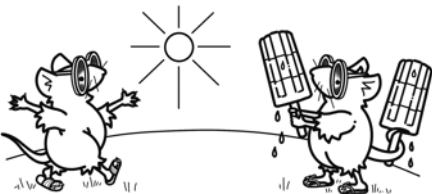
Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

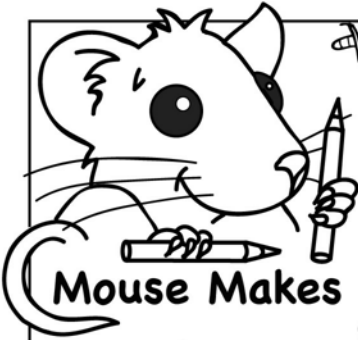
THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



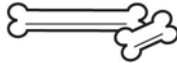
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			7	9	4		2	3	
			5	7					
								8	6



Answers are on page 27



The Lord said to Moses,
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."
 As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...



1
Water turns to Blood
 Which water turned
 to blood?
Read - Exodus 7:19

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

6
A Break out of Boils
 What did Moses throw into
 the air before boils appeared
 on people and animals?
Read - Exodus 9:10

2
A Swarm of Frogs
 In which
 places were the
 frogs found?
Read - Exodus 8:3-4



7
A Rain of Hail
 What also rained
 down with the hail?
 Where did it not hail?
Read - Exodus 9:24-26



3
A Plague of Gnats
 When Aaron struck his
 staff on the ground
 what became Gnats?
Read - Exodus 8:16-17



8
A Swarm of Locusts
 Where did the wind
 come from that brought
 the locusts to the land?
Read - Exodus 10:13

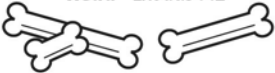


4
Swarms of Flies
 In which land were the
 flies not be found?
Read - Exodus 8:22



9
Darkness over the Land
 How many days did
 it remain dark?
Read - Exodus 10:21-22

5
Death of Animals
 Which animals that belonged
 to the Egyptians died?
Read - Exodus 9:2



GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

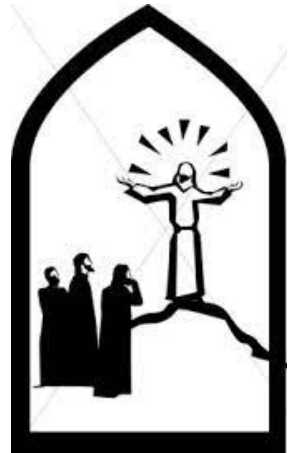
10
Death of the Firstborn
 At what time would the
 firstborn in the land die?
Read - Exodus 11:4-6



JUNE WORDSEARCH

Each June, the Church of England holds its Petertide ordinations, to coincide with the feast day of the great apostle Peter, who led the Church at Pentecost. Simon had been a fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, when his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. When Simon made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gave him a new name – Cephas, or Peter, which means rock. The ‘gates of hell’ would never prevail against Jesus’ Church, and He gave Peter the power of ‘binding and loosing’, and also the ‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Peter betrayed Jesus but after the Resurrection, Jesus entrusted him to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ’s flock. Peter was the first apostle to work a miracle.

ANDREW	FEED	JESUS	RAISING
BETHSAIDA	FISHERMAN	KEYS	ROCK
BETRAYED	GALILEE	KINGDOM	SHEEP
BINDING	GARDEN	LAMBS	SIMON
COCK	GATES	LOOSING	TRANSFIGURATION
CROWD	GETHSEMANE	MY	
DAUGHTER	HELL	PETER	



*Answers are on
page 27*

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9	4	3	2	5	1	7	8	6

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OPENING THE BOOK

A few years ago we spent a Saturday morning looking at the Bible. We thought about questions like: Is the Old Testament relevant anymore? Did God really make the world in six days? Did the miracles actually happen? What should we think when the Bible seems to contradict itself? How was it decided which books should be part of the Bible? In what way is it the word of God? Is there an overarching story? How do the Old and New Testaments fit together?

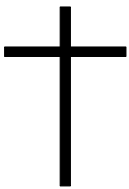


Those who attended found it interesting and enlightening, and we have decided to run it again on **Saturday 22nd July** from 10 am – 1pm in Church House.

We will give an overview of the Bible's major story themes, we will talk about the different genres or types of writing, we will think about how it came to be in the form we have today and we will come up with some thoughts that might make reading it a bit easier and less daunting. And we hope the morning will help you to hear God speaking through it and encourage you to read it more.

Please let Chris in the office know if you would like to attend – I am sure it will be a morning well spent!

Reverend Paul Day



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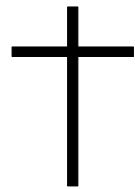
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***We want you to know that if anything is concerning you, please talk to Sue Harries,
Safeguarding Co-ordinator, or Paul Day, Vicar.
We must all look after one another.***

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