



**25<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February**  
**Conversion of Paul**  
**The Parish of Shirley**  
**St James the Great and St John the Divine**  
The Parish Office  
Church House, Church Road,  
Shirley, B90 2AX  
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0121 745 8896

<b>Sun 25<sup>th</sup></b>	8am	Eucharist (St James)
	9am	Morning Worship (St Johns)
	10.30am	Worship 4 Everyone - Baptism Celebration (St James)
<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup></b>	8pm	Compline & Parish Prayers (Zoom)
<b>Tues 27<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Welcome Café (Church House)
	11.30am	Craft Club (Church House)
<b>Thurs 29<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Eucharist (St James)
<b>Fri 30<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Jimmy Tots (Church House)
<b>Sat 31<sup>st</sup></b>	10am	Bible Study (Church House)
<b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup></b>	10.30am	Eucharist – Archdeacon Jenny (St James)
	3.30pm	Reflective Worship (St James)

### Parish Notices

**Weekly Email** If you would like to receive this pew-slip by email each Friday, along with updates about other events and activities in the parish, please contact Emily in the Parish Office and she will add you to the mailing list. It's a simple way to stay connected and keep up with what's happening across the parish.

**Mothers Union** Our next meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February will be our AGM. It will be in Church House at 2 pm followed by refreshments. All are welcome to attend. 2026 Annual Subscriptions of £30.00 is now due. Payment would be appreciated ASAP direct to the Treasurer - Susan Knight or via the Parish Office. Thank you

**'Tea at the Ritz'** – St John's congregation invite you to join them for afternoon tea in Church House on Saturday 14th February at 2pm. Tickets are £6 and are available from Linda Alford or Gill Hanton (07973 942145)



### **Matthew Bible Study – 31st January, 10:00–11:30am Church House**

A reminder that we'll be exploring Matthew's Gospel together during this session. Everyone is very welcome – just bring a Bible. For further details, please speak to Richard

### **Last Year's Palm Crosses**

There is a box at the back of St James Church into which you are invited to return your palm crosses from last year. As always the plan is to burn these in order to make the ash for our Ash Wednesday service. We will be burning on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm with the Eucharist and imposition of ashes at 7:30pm. See Richard for details.

### **Vicar – in vacancy**

Contact the Parish Office

**Rev Richard Haynes - Curate**

0797 253 0161

[curate@shirleyparishb90.co.uk](mailto:curate@shirleyparishb90.co.uk)

(Rest Day is Friday)

### **FOR PRAYER**

Our Welcome Café and all those who volunteer and visit there.

All those in the appointment process for our new Vicar.

### **YEARS MIND**

Sylvia Elizabeth Standbridge,  
Reginald Howard Bayliss, Sylvia  
Elizabeth Standbridge & Donald  
Abbey

### **THOSE TO BE BAPTISED**

Pheobe Smith & Arley Mitcham

### **THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

Carlton Blackshaw & Sandra  
Martin

### **Collect for 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever  
**Amen**

### **Donations During Services**

† We do not pass an offertory plate around the congregation during our services. You can donate using the Parish Giving Scheme for regular donations or for one-off donations by using the Sum Up machine or the collecting plate at the back of the church. Thank you for your support †

**Jeremiah 1:4–10**

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.' Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

**Acts 9:1–22**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

**Matthew 19:27–end**

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'