

September

Shirley Parish Magazine



SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also page 31)

CLERGY

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SHIRLEY PARISH



KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN

Parish Office, Church House, Church Road, Shirley, B90 2AX

Telephone: 0121 745 8896

email: admin@shirleyparish.co.uk

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

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

facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

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

Services on the telephone: 0121 798 0196

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 SEPTEMBER

Date	Time	Service	Venue
2nd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
5th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	6pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Garden
9th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
12th	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
	3pm	Covid-19 Memorial Event	Shirley Park
16th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
18th	10am	Messy Church	Church House
19th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
23rd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
26th	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
30th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church

ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX

ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW

Date	Sermon Theme	Readings
5th	It all goes well (David and Solomon)	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Acts 2:25-36 Luke 1:67-80
12th	The nation turns away from God and the message of the prophets	Jeremiah 2:1-19 Acts 7:51-54 Matthew 23:23-39
19th	The message of the prophets (2) looking forwards to a new hope	Isaiah 40:1-11 Acts 8:26-40 Luke 4:16-21
26th	Harvest	Joel 2:21-27 1 Timothy 6:6-10 Matthew 6:25-33

LITTLE NICK FINDS OUT ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

‘What do you mean, climate change?’ I asked Sarah. ‘It’s about some of the things people are doing to the planet that are making it hotter and killing some of the wildlife.’ Well, I still had no idea what she was talking about, so I asked about what we had been doing.

Apparently, it started at Messy Church. The children did activities about some of the things that are happening. They made brilliant models of coral reefs, planted seeds and made sock bugs to remember how important insects can be. There were also some plasticine islands that flooded when the ice bergs that we floated near them melted. Our children also looked for things in the churchyard. We usually find ladybirds and spiders but on Messy Church day there was a tiger and a dinosaur as well!

The following Sunday it was everyone’s turn as we had a service presented by our ‘Eco’ group. They encouraged us to think about what we can do to make a difference. Perhaps have milk delivered instead of buying it in plastic bottles – so now I know what it is rattling in the porch early in the morning. Or growing bright coloured flowers to encourage the bees in the garden. How about walking instead of just getting in the car. (I wasn’t keen on that one, my legs are much shorter than Sarah’s so it is hard to keep up.)

Someone explained about the challenge of a plastic free Christmas and the others about what we are already doing and could do.

I had thought there wasn’t much a kitten could do but I was beginning to understand that we may not need to do great big things, even little things can make a difference. Everyone was asked to make a promise of something they would do to help. So, I have asked them to buy my food in tins, which are recycled, not plastic which often isn’t, and am trying not to get dirty so I don’t need a shower too often.

What will you promise?

Nicodemus Penfold - Parish Raconteur



Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James *Nurture, Learn, Achieve*

Executive Principal for Primary - Miss S Deakin

For details about the school contact the PA to the Principal - Mrs G Sutton

Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James, Halifax Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 2BT
Phone: 0121 744 7897 office@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk www.stjames.tgacademy.org.uk

SHIRPAS DUST OFF THE NORDIC POLES ONCE MORE

It was very good to walk once again with friends old and new.

Some walked with their Nordic poles, some with nothing at all or a walking frame, and a local walk around a lake was chosen so that individuals could choose whether to go round once, twice or as many times as they felt able. We divided ourselves up into slow, medium and fast walkers and social distancing was largely observed.



The end of the walk gave us the opportunity to sit in a beautifully-planted new garden built to commemorate the armed forces - a peaceful place with well-spaced benches and surrounded by wild flowers outside the garden perimeter. It made an ideal location to complete the walk with a good chat and flasks of coffee.

If you would like to join us, please look in the weekly pew slip to find the times and dates of our walks - *all are welcome*.

Chris Speakman, on behalf of the SHIRPA (Shirley Parish) walkers



**The Friends of St James Walking Club -
next walk will be on Sunday 12th September -
contact 'the Friends' for more details or
phone Christine on 01564 823217**

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THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the July & August winners

£50 - Mary Hobbs, Brian Hollings £25 - Jean Wall, Sophie Ray

A WARM WELCOME TO PHILIPPA

We have been asked to host Philippa Grimes - a trainee reader from Sparkhill - for a short placement in September. Philippa will be attending services in all our churches, as well as other activities during the four weeks she is here. The aim is that she experiences church life in a different context to that which she is used to. The placement culminates with her preaching at St James Church on Sunday 3rd October. Please take time to get to know Philippa during her short time with us and make her welcome.

Reverend Paul Day

Hello, my name is Philippa Grimes. I'm a Reader-in-Training with Birmingham Diocese. I live in Sparkhill and worship at a local Anglican church, St. Christopher's, a lively inner-city church with a small geographical parish. Part of current Reader training is to spend a month on placement in a different parish and I've received a generous invitation for my placement to be in Shirley Parish in September.

My day job is teaching ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) to adults. Most of the students are from South Asia and Africa. I work in a team of teachers to introduce students to English grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and the British way of life. I'm married to Philip, who has his own business, and have two grown-up sons. My hobbies are hiking and trying out new recipes.

Ways my family passed their Christian faith on to me include telling me Bible stories and praying with me at bedtime, plus taking me to church. I also remember one of my schoolteachers being brilliant at telling Bible stories in a dramatic and memorable way. As a teenager I came to a personal faith in Christ and was confirmed. I am really looking forward to meeting some of you in September, learning lots, and hopefully being useful too. See you soon!

JIMMYTOTS

For pre-school children and their carers

Friday mornings from 10th September
10am - 11.30am (term time) in Church House
£2 per family unit

Please contact the Parish Office on
0121 745 8896 to book for your first session.

We welcome families old or new, and can take up to 15 families initially.



'THANK YOU' FROM DENISE

I would like to say a big thank you to you all for the donations collected at Graham's funeral. The total raised was £311.60.

This has been split between the two charities that Graham himself chose and they were the Palliative Care Team from the Primrose Unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bromsgrove and Cancer Research.

I am still having some good and some not so good moments. Although I think these not so awful moments aren't really awful, they are just emotional times, reliving a memory or a song or looking for something and finding a note that Graham had written to me. He used to hide little notes around the house in the oddest of places, like in the tea caddy, some that just simply said 'love you'.

It is hard finding yourself alone and it's the smallest of things that usually bring on my tears. But I take comfort from the fact he is now at peace and not suffering any more, it would be selfish of me to want him back in his suffering. His faith in Jesus was so strong and it is what carried him along, so that's what I am doing now, allowing God to carry me and really know the line 'be still and know that I am God'.

So, love and prayers for you all and a big thank you once again.

Denise Smith (Reader)



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SO LONG, FAREWELL, AUF WIEDERSEHEN

I was really excited. The first Sunday that there was no limit on the numbers in church and I was allowed to go. I would see all my friends. 'Possibly not', said Sarah. Some people just have the knack of bursting your bubble. I folded my paws across my chest. 'Why not?'. 'Because there may be too many people to sit safely in church and Bernard and I have volunteered to go into Church House and watch on a big screen.'

I was still sulking when we got out of the car and went into Church House. But I had the last laugh as Paul said there would be room for us all in church unless lots of unbooked people turned up. So, we went over the road.

It seemed a lot of people in church because we had got used to only a few and we were still sitting spaced out. I spotted Michael and Ann Caddy, John and Sue Richards, Peter and Kate Law-Jones and members of our congregation I hadn't seen since before lockdown 1. It was a happy and sad day because we were saying 'goodbye' to Kevin, the organist, and a proper 'goodbye' to Peter and Kate who had left during lockdown.

The service was brilliant. We sang! Admittedly we had to keep our masks on and it is not a pleasant experience but it is better than not singing at all. Peter talked to us, and Paul and the Readers brought the communion wafers round as we sat in the pews.

Afterwards we went across to the new garden at the back of Church House. It was funny because at first no one wanted to walk on the Astroturf in the middle, but once a few had nobody worried anymore. There were cold drinks and lots of chatter. Some people had brought sandwiches and sat down to eat them. We went home.



It was a brilliant morning and so good to see everyone again. Good luck in your retirements Kevin and Peter.

*Nicodemus Penfold -
Parish Raconteur*

THE WELCOME CAFÉ

It's been a long, long time since we were free to talk to each other over a cup of tea and a piece of cake. Of course we *have* talked – over the phone – and online – but, until the recent (and careful) restart of Church services, not much has been said face to face. Also, for the time being, there has been no tea and cake after the service either. Little time to talk.

Some of us think that this eighteen month semi-isolation shows in our faces. It's not that we have actually been in hiding. Paul and his team have done much to ensure that the network of contacts across the parish has been maintained, and although this has helped hugely, it can't replace the way our eyes and smiles and voices communicate how we feel and how we really are.

Opening the **Welcome Café** in early August has been like opening a door on all of our community.

The Café happens every **Tuesday morning in Church House** from **10am to 11.30am**. There's tea, coffee, cake and conversation. Church House and the new garden out the back, are full of us. Not only familiar faces – long missed – but also several new faces – heartily welcomed.



We need our church. We need each other. We need new faces – and we need cake – as often as possible. Thanks to Jan, Pat, Sarah and their team, all those needs are now being met, in abundance, every Tuesday morning.

Ray Speakman

Mothers' UNION
 Christian care for families
 Diocese of Birmingham

Mother's Union will be recommencing with a social afternoon on Wednesday 1st September at 2pm in Church House.
All welcome – we look forward to seeing you!

COVID-19

Memorial Event

3pm 12th September Shirley Park



A time to be still;
to grieve; to remember.

If you would like a name read out, please email
admin@shirleygarden.co.uk, or phone 020 743 8894

SHIRLEY
CHURCHES
TOGETHER

COVID MEMORIAL EVENT - Sunday 12th September

As I write things are slowly beginning to return to some kind of normal following the pandemic. We are singing again in church (albeit while wearing masks), the Welcome Café is open, Messy Church and Jimmy Tots are starting again soon, other things are being planned for the Autumn and there is a growing hope that the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic is behind us. I pray that hope is not misplaced.

However, I am sure we all bear scars and hurts from the past 18 months or so, and it may be you have never had a chance to acknowledge yours. It is with this in mind that Shirley Churches Together are holding a **Covid Memorial Event in Shirley Park on Sunday September 12th at 3pm**. There will be a short service, with hymns, prayers, a message of hope and a chance to have names of those we want to remember read out. The service will be followed by simple refreshments at The Bridge, where there will be an opportunity to talk with someone if that would help. We are also hoping that a bench in the park as a permanent memorial to those who have suffered in the pandemic will be dedicated by the Mayor during the afternoon.

All are welcome – we are aiming to get invitations out to most homes in Shirley. If you would like someone's name read out, please contact the Parish Office (0121 745 8896) or admin@shirleyparish.co.uk.

Reverend Paul Day

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

Sadly, we have had to make the decision that, for the time being, Christ the King Church will not be meeting together on Sundays. Gill Gough has been taking primary responsibility for Christ the King for many years, but it is now important for her to step back for a while to care for her husband, Trevor. Nor is it possible for the other members of our ministry team to take on any additional responsibilities at this time. It must be emphasised that this is not the closure of Christ the King, merely a temporary cessation of Sunday by Sunday worship. Please hold the people of Christ the King, and especially Gill and Trevor, in your prayers at this difficult time.

OCTOBER 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY
Sunday 12th September

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

NOVELS BY SARAH MAINE

Before she began writing novels, Sarah Maine was an archaeologist. Each one of the four novels we have read in the Shirley Parish Book Club explores the archaeology of places, people and families. She said in an interview that ‘landscapes can alter perspectives, holding onto the past and bonding people to them. I like to explore these themes in my books and consider how characters are shaped by wild, unfamiliar places’. Scotland dominates the four novels, but two of them also have Canada and New Zealand as part of her intention to explore the wild and the unfamiliar – and its impact on her characters.

The first of the four novels is *The House Between Tides*. Kate Day has tracked down the actual location of this house. It’s on an island called Vallay, linked by a tidal causeway, to the coast of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides. The central character, Hetty Deveraux inherits a house on the island. Once there, the past takes over: human remains, a nineteenth century painter, his wife and in the present, the estate’s factor’s son, Cameron. The truth about the house and its occupants is excavated.

Ursula found the characters from the past and in the present so engaging that she felt she was there with them. Ursula likes novels that deal with two periods of time and felt that this one was the best she has read – and looks forward to reading more from Sarah Maine. Sue Guy liked the book too and found the ending a surprise. Mary loved the descriptions of the Western Isles and was reminded of holidays there. She was gripped by the novel until the very end. Sarah, like Pat, was not so gripped by the romantic elements in the plot but both found ‘the descriptions of the island environment and Edwardian attitudes’ absorbing.

Sue Harries responded to the novel with, as I was reading this book it became increasingly enthralling. The moves between 1910 and 1920 worked well, although I liked the 1910 characters the best, especially Beatrice. The wild setting of the Hebrides was stunningly described; the island birds were fascinating. The book is very well written, and I’m encouraged to read more by Sarah Maine.

Having enjoyed the first novel, some of the group turned to a Sarah Maine’s second story - *Beyond the Wild River*. This begins and ends in Scotland, but the main part is in the Canadian wilderness. It begins with a murder on the estate of a Scottish philanthropist. A young man is falsely accused, runs away, only to re-emerge in Canada where, five years later, the Scottish lord and his daughter, meet the fugitive again – and the truth is uncovered.

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB *continued*

As with the first novel, several of us found the landscape a key factor. Andrew writes, 'the plot of this book could be described as almost formulaic - you know who the girl ends up with! However, what elevates this book is the description of the locations, here we have writing that is 3D and in glorious technicolour. I may not want to reread the book, but I would love to visit the places!'

Some of us found Sarah Maine's third novel, *The Women of the Dunes*, the most gripping of her four novels. Set in a place called, Ullanessm, which is maybe a fictional version of Ullapool on the west coast of Scotland, it begins with a story told to the main character (Libby Snow) by her grandmother in Newfoundland. More lush landscapes, more mystery and more excavation of the past.

Finally, the latest novel, *Alchemy and Rose*. It begins and ends in Scotland, spends a good deal of time in New Zealand, make a brief visit to Melbourne in Australia, then returns to Scotland. Don Abbey writes, 'If you like your romantic fiction underpinned with strong narrative adventure, a limited cast of differentiated characters bolted together with convincing historical detail spread across continents and coloured with melodrama, you can fill your boots with this smashing yarn.'

Don goes on to write that although it is a 'sweeping epic, for me it was swept with too broad a brush which cleared away not only the internal lives of its characters but also some of the more fundamental themes the story offers. It touches upon them (sometimes with insight and perception), but frustratingly they're not developed. I quickly learned that exploring identity, exploitation, redemption, loyalty, endeavour, actions, and their consequences is not the purpose of this book. So, I willingly surrendered to its short pacy chapters, each a small gem, rather like a soap, their craftily phrased rising last paragraphs sustaining the interest in spite of the rather clunky dialogue. It's an undemanding read, and the reader is well rewarded by a filmic dramatic finale.

Hillary Mantel, who knows a bit about writing historical fiction, believes history is what's left in the sieve after the years have run through it. Sarah Maine, a consummate storyteller, has taken the scraps from the filter of the eighteenth-century New Zealand gold rush and used them in descriptions of convincing technical detail that fit the expansive needs of the book. She writes impressively on the alchemy of silver nitrate, a schooner's fore and aft rigging, Rimu wood in flume construction, tidal flows ... the list goes on and on ... and around them told this story of violence, ambition, and the nature and perils of love.

.... continued over the page

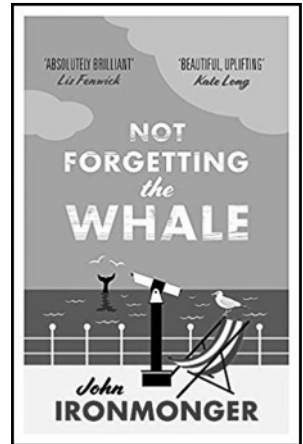
SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB *continued*

Like Mary and her memories of Scotland, Don was reminded of his visits to New Zealand – and of the research he did there on some families who migrated from Birmingham in the mid nineteenth century.

So – find one of these four novels and read it! They will stir your imagination as well as your memory.

The next book for the group is *Not Forgetting the Whale* by John Ironmonger. Written in 2018, it might have been written last week. It deals with a flu pandemic and its effect on a small Cornish fishing village. You will find so many parallels with now.

Ray Speakman



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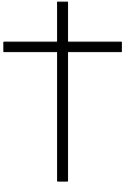
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PAUSE FOR THOUGHT - SPIRITUAL FRUIT

John Chapter 15

A branch doesn't bear fruit by trying, working, or straining. It bears fruit by simply 'abiding'. But what does this mean? How do we abide in Jesus?

Let's illustrate it this way: when you put a tea bag in a cup of hot water, something happens. As the tea bag abides in the water, the tea begins to flavour the water until it takes on the taste of the tea. And the longer the tea bag abides in the water, the stronger the colour and flavour of the tea. That's what happens when you abide in Christ and He abides in you. The longer you abide in Him and the deeper you go with Him, the more His presence will begin to permeate your life. The branch doesn't make the fruit; it bears the fruit. It's the vine that produces the fruit. And Jesus said, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing'. Without the vine, the strongest branch is as defenceless as the weakest branch.

So what does it mean to abide in Christ?

1) Studying His Word. 'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you'. As you study God's Word, His Spirit changes you.

2) Obeying His will. 'If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love'. The closer you get to God, the more you'll want to do what He says. And when you follow His guidance, you'll see what amazing things He can do in your life.

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

**Join us for coffee,
cake & chat**

Wednesday 8th September 2021

10.30am - 12 noon

at St John's Church

Tuesday 21st September 2021

10am - 11.30am

at Church House



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

**You can donate online using this link -
<https://thyg.uk/BUU004007517>**

Open every Tuesday

10.00 am – 11.30 am

Welcome Café



Pop in for a cuppa or stay longer for a chat.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Church House, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX

FRUSTRATION, DESPAIR, AND JOY

An emotional journey and all in one day. Dealing with a loved one in hospital is very distressing, especially when no visitors are allowed, not even the next of kin. It's been eight days since they took Trevor away in an ambulance. I have not yet seen him but he has seen doctors, nurses, chaplains, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dinner ladies and cleaners; so why not me? I have felt excluded, frustrated, cut off in the dark.

Mobile phones at the best of times get poor reception in hospital because of all the machinery, but you have even more difficulties with hand and finger coordination, dexterity and an increasing failure to understand modern technology, it really brings you down.

But when you hear your loved one weeping on the other end of the phone and you are helpless to do anything then that is the lowest point and brings you to despair.

But after contacting the ward, nurses go and reassure him that he will be returning home. Occupational nurses get him out of bed and walking with a frame across the room to build up his muscle strength ready to return home again.

The nurses have been absolutely fantastic, passing on messages of love, caring and looking after his needs, sorting out his phone when accidentally switched off, supporting him, cheering him and myself.

The joy of a phone call to say he can come home this week; can we arrange a stair lift or a bed downstairs? You bet we can! So I've been rearranging stuff, moving furniture, rallied friends and family to help.

Then to top it all, a friend from church brought me a beautiful bouquet with a card from people at Christ the King. The words are very meaningful. I have decided that for the moment my priorities lie with Trevor. I know God will understand. He knows what we are going through and is walking beside us.

So, thank you all for your prayers and good wishes. We will keep you informed of his progress. Thanks be to God.

Gill Gough



Thank you!

**To everyone who supported our Summer Fete on 14th August
in any way - it was a great success!**

PEACE DAY 1919



This old image from 1919 made me look and try to imagine what might have been going on at The Plume Of Feathers in Shirley, on Peace Day in that year.

The irony is that Shirley's war memorial sits at the edge of the church's graveyard virtually opposite the inn today...

Peace Day at The Plume of Feathers,
Festooned across its frontage
With traditional flags and bunting,
Yet partially hidden by ivy's montage...

Almost as props, a horse and cart,
A soft-top automobile
And a motor cycle with side-car
Add to the set, posed, inanimate feel...

The human interest angle is wooden,
Lacking the joy of celebration,
For the muted characters, doubtless stilled,
Have dealt with death and desperation...

The scene, sedate and sanctimonious,
Staged, succoured and somnolent,
Strangely sits opposite a churchyard:
The present site of a Great War monument...

Pete Ray

HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED

ADAVU: Recently a lady was trafficked to England from her home country where she had been the victim of extreme abuse, torture and rape. She was destitute and suicidal when rescued. The Methodist ADAVU project supported her for some months providing visits, food parcels, toiletries (supplied by you). Help was also given to organise a G.P., benefits and housing options. When she was eventually moved into her own accommodation this parish supplied paint, brushes and rollers for her to decorate it, plus bedding and other household items. She wants to say; “thank you, thank you very much, so much everything you bring. Say thank you to people who give it.”

If you have the slightest suspicion that an organisation/service is exploiting their staff in slavery condition DO ACT! You can either ring Crime Stoppers anonymously or contact the Salvation Army’s confidential and anonymous referral helpline on 0800 808 3733 which is available 365 days a year with interpretation services where needed. No one will mind a false report - better to overreact than let a victim continue to be abused.

I have been squirreling away small items ready for the Christmas parcels which this parish and friends supply – time passes so very quickly (though not when we are waiting to see loved ones cut off for months by Covid restrictions!). Some items are being passed on in the meantime when either Liisa from Adavu or Sandra from the Narthex have a sudden need for one of their families. Recently some dolls went to three very appreciative Little Ones, reducing their mothers to tears!

The need for toiletries is constant, particularly soap and deodorants.

FOOD BANK: Now that more people are losing their jobs and moving onto Universal Credit, sadly the need for supplementary food parcels is increasing. The constant need is for long-life orange juice, meat soup, dried milk and tinned tomatoes which may be left in the collecting bins at the local supermarkets (but PLEASE NO PASTA or CEREALS).

NARTHEX CLOTHING BANK and RESOURCE CENTRE at St. John’s, Sparkhill:

With your generous help and enthusiasm, David and I have been supporting the Resource Centre, including the Clothing Bank, for many years with donations from the parish and other sources. The time has come to call it a day. We have had some huge donations of bedding, towels and clothing but recently much of the bedding had to be washed (22 towels one day, 11 duvet covers the next plus endless sheets) and sadly so did much of the clothing (9 very soiled anoraks spruced up wonderfully after going through my washing machine).

HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED *continued*

By contrast the children's clothing from local nurseries was already clean and sorted, saving me hours of time and my washing machine much effort!

You have been incredibly generous and the families we have helped have greatly appreciated the clothing and household items.

But I am too tired to continue any longer though we shall continue to support ADAVU, a charity very dear to my heart. We need to reclaim our house and lives. Thank you once again for your help over more than 25 years, often at very short notice when there has been an urgent appeal. We have met such interesting people who cared deeply about folks just a few miles away in great difficulties - and they in their turn were very grateful but often puzzled as to why complete strangers should help them.

You have been tremendous!

Elizabeth Paice




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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

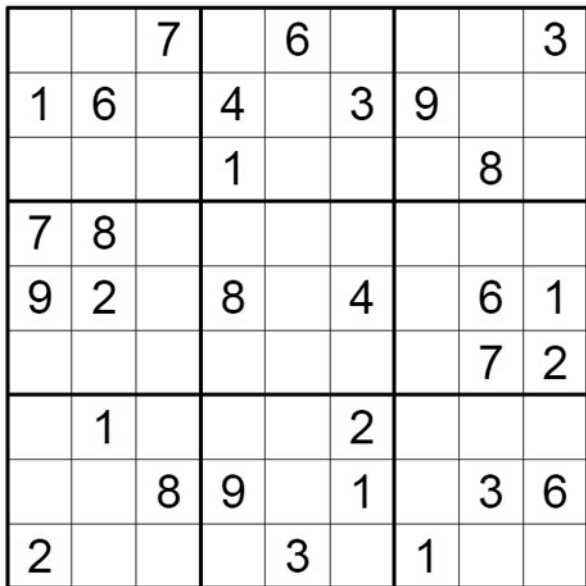
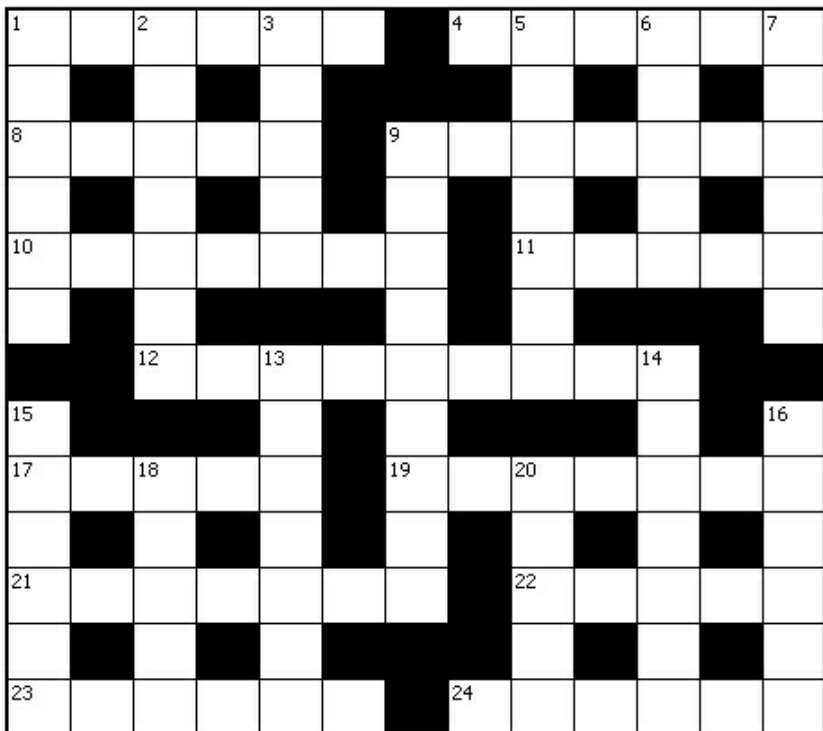
- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Down

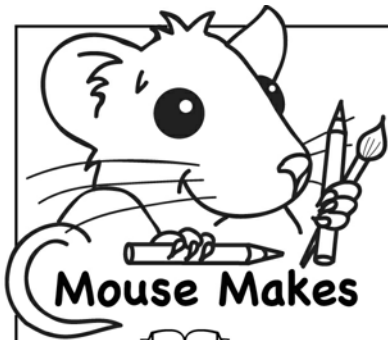
- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack
(2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea
(Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
- 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we
may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
- 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)



THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



Answers are on page 27



Mouse Makes



Read this story in
1 Kings 17:7-16

The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months,
there was a drought in the land.

God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the
town of Zarephath. At the town gate he
saw a widow gathering firewood.

*"Please bring me a drink of water
and some bread."* he asked her.



She answered *"All I have is a handful of
flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."*

"Do not worry." Elijah said,
"Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never
ran out of oil until it rained again!



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

Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY

WORDSEARCH - THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world?

Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. (*Matthew Chapter 13 verses 24-30*)

It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.



Answers are on page 27

BARN
BUNDLES
BURNED
ENEMY
FIELD
GATHER
GOOD
GRAIN
GROW
HARVEST
HEAVEN
KINGDOM
LET
MASTER
REAP
ROOT
SEED
SERVANTS
SLEEPING
SOW
TOGETHER
WEEDS

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



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W	V	N	D	L	T	E	O	O	N	O	G
H	L	O	H	S	B	A	R	N	E	M	A



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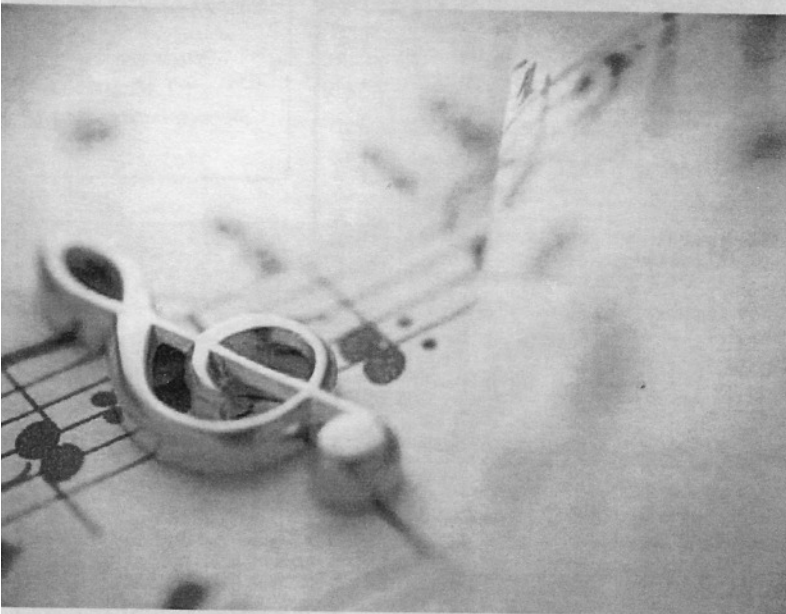


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We hope to see you there



BAPTISMS

July	4th	Delilah Grey Karen McCann Effie Willow Jenny McCann
	11th	Isabella Mae Baylis
	25th	Thomas Erneest Haddon
	25th	Norah Louise Clarke



FUNERALS

June	4th	Graham Smith
	9th	Reta Lily Jordan
	30th	William Pountney
July	20th	Sheila Gaskell
	21st	Georgina Geoffries
	23rd	Ian William Parker



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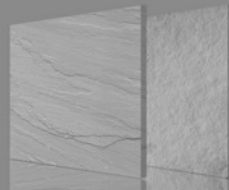
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