

SHIRLEY PARISH



**KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

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

We meet for half an hour at 8.30am every Saturday morning to pray for the Parish - all are welcome to join us.

**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**



**Crafts, activities,
food and celebration
for all the family**

**See page 20 for
dates and times**

NEWS FROM THE VICARAGE

After Thanksgiving Sunday in June and Bishop David's visit to St James's Patronal Festival at the end of July, I'm delighted to tell you that the celebrations continue in September:

On the Feast of St Matthew the Apostle, the 21st September, Canon Richard Postill celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. This is a Saturday, so we are celebrating with Richard the day after, when he will preside and preach at the 10am service at St James's. Significantly, the 22nd is the 51st anniversary of his ordination as a deacon, so this will be a double celebration. The service will be followed by a reception in St James's to which everyone is invited. It will be an opportunity to give thanks for Richard's long and faithful ministry in the diocese, and his continued ministry here at St James's and at the Cathedral.



The following Sunday, the 29th September, is Harvest Festival in Shirley Parish. There will be two services in the parish that day. The 8am Eucharist will take place at St James's, while the main act of worship will be a **Parish Harvest Festival Service at Christ the King**, beginning at 10.30am and followed by lunch. One of the features of life in the parish, since it was established in 2017, has been the growing closeness of the three churches. This has been achieved by the grace of God and a determination by everyone to witness to our shared faith by the quality of our relationships. Through joint worship and endeavour, we witness to our fundamental unity in Jesus Christ while valuing the wonderful distinctiveness of each of our congregations.

For those who usually worship at St James's, it will be an opportunity to experience the presence of God in a different setting, while for Christ the King and St John's it will be an opportunity to share more widely their commitment to shared buildings and acts of worship.

Following a number of discussions between Karen, me, Paul and our Parish Wardens, Gill and Margaret, it has been decided that Karen Ursell will no longer act as the parish's Safeguarding Coordinator. I would like to thank Karen for her efforts in this important area of parish life since she took over.

NEWS FROM THE VICARAGE continued

With this change of personnel has come an opportunity to review our arrangements with the diocesan safeguarding team. Full details of new arrangements will be published soon. Until then, any matters relating to safeguarding should be addressed to Paul or me, either directly or through the Parish Office.

Reverend Peter Law-Jones

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the July & August winners

£50 - Sheila Walford & Mary Berry

£25 - Eleanor Green & Margaret Jones

THE BEST LAID PLANS – MINOR CHANGES TO OUR SERVICE PATTERNS

Sometimes you have a great idea and when you begin to put it into practice it has knock-on effects that were never anticipated.

A while back the PCC agreed to hold Parish Services on fifth Sundays when they occur (about four times a year). The first of these was the wonderful Songs of Praise in June. What we hadn't foreseen was that for either Christ the King or St John's this would mean that for two successive Sundays there would be no service at one of the churches (since those two churches already have a joint service on the first Sunday).

At recent committee meetings of both churches it was decided to amend the service pattern so that on the LAST Sunday of each month there would be a joint service between Christ the King and St John's – and if the last Sunday is a fifth Sunday that would be a Parish service.

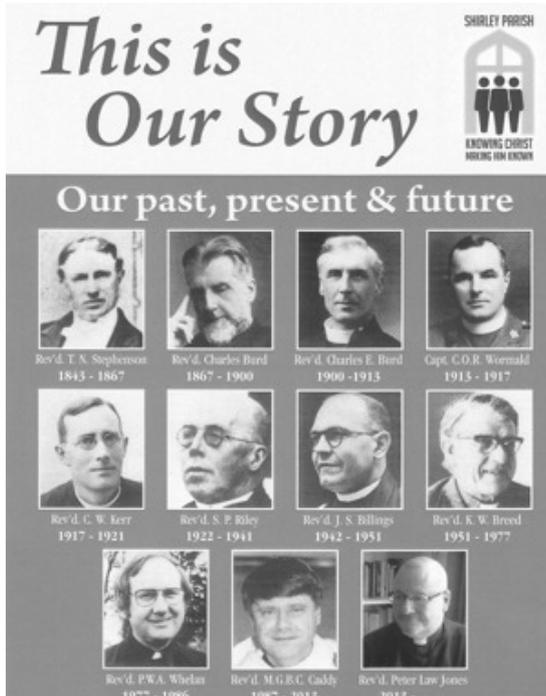
Over the next few months this looks like the table on page four - we hope this will soon bed down and help to further build positive relationships between our congregations.

Reverend Paul Day

OUR UPDATED SERVICE PATTERN

Date	Christ the King	St John's	St James
1st September	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
8th September	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Worship
15th September	Eucharist	Morning Worship	Eucharist
22nd September	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
29th September (<i>FIFTH SUNDAY</i>)	Joint Parish Harvest Festival at Christ the King		
6th October	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist
13th October	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Worship
20th October	Eucharist	Morning Worship	Eucharist
27th October	Joint Eucharist at St John's		Eucharist
3rd November	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist
10th November	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Worship
17th November	Eucharist	Morning Worship	Eucharist
24th November	Joint CTK Patronal at Christ the King		Eucharist
1st December	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist
8th December	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Worship
15th December	Eucharist	Morning Worship	Eucharist
22nd December	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
29th December (<i>FIFTH SUNDAY</i>)	Joint Parish St John's Patronal at St John's		





What a wonderful evening we had at St James Church on Friday 26th July.

Congratulations and a big thank you to all those involved - especially Ray Speakman, Kevin Gill and actor Tony Turner.

The words and music really bought our history alive.

LITTLE NICK AT THE PARISH SERVICE

I have been trying to make sense of the rota that appears in our house to show who is taking which service on Sundays and during the week. It seems to be just a lot of coloured boxes but I can work out that when there are lots of blank boxes we are having a parish service. 'Why?' I asked. 'The Bishop is coming', Sarah told me. That led to a heated debate about whether Kate (Stowe) would come as well. Sarah was adamant that Bishop David does not expect his chaplain to trail around after him, but Bernard thought Kate, who had been our curate, might take the opportunity to come to see all her friends here.

We got to church quite early. Well we had the cloths for the tables where the lunch would be laid out and a banner saying 'Parish lunch', just in case anyone was in the wrong place. Watching Sarah and Bernard hanging it over the hatch in Church House made me laugh so much that I had a pain in my side by the time I went over to church. I lay down on the pew to make it feel better.

People kept coming into church including our old friends Kate and Matt, bringing our new friends Rebecca and Benjamin. So Bernard was right. But Sarah had disappeared by then so we could not gloat!

!

... continued over the page



LITTLE NICK AT THE PARISH SERVICE *continued*

By 10 o'clock the church was full and suddenly a lot of people came out of the sacristy and walked to the back of the church. The choir joined them and they formed a big procession that went to the front while we sang.

During the service I spotted lots of people that I knew getting up to do the jobs. Bishop David talked to us about looking after the world, finding out what harms it and about not using the car too much. I wanted to join the children at the table at the back but Bernard wouldn't let me so I sulked for the rest of the service.

Afterwards we went over the road in the rain to Church House where there was lots of food on a big table. Eventually the Bishop said grace and we were allowed to eat the food. There were my favourite salmon sandwiches and lots of cake. There also seemed to be lots of egg sandwiches. Everyone was chatting to each other, the Bishop stayed for his lunch, as did Kate and her family. After a while people started going home. I offered to help clear up by licking the plates – but was told to stay out of the kitchen. But I did manage to eat some chocolate cake while the tidying up took place.

Anyway thank you to Peter and Paul, and Margaret and Gill who organised the service and lunch, and to all the others who did things to help.

Nicodemus Penfold - Parish Raconteur

AN INTERESTING 'START' COURSE

Well we have as a parish been very busy through July and August with the parish Songs of Praise service and the Bishops visit at St James patronal service. I am told that it was a great event and Graham and I felt very sad that we weren't able to attend due to personal reasons.



We have though been attending the Start Course at St Johns on a Thursday evening for six weeks.

This is where those who are new to the Christian faith – and anyone else - can come and ask all those questions that have been niggling away at them.

AN INTERESTING 'START' COURSE continued

It's always good to attend these groups as looking and learning about what it means to be Christian is always refreshing, and if already a Christian you can always learn something that you maybe had not thought about before or in a different way.

The first session was all about our faith journeys, where we are on that journey and are we on track to achieving this, then the second session was does God exist - with the help of a DVD we listened to what the people on the street thought Yes, or No, maybe, or I like to believe he does. Session three was good and bad news and looking at ourselves and how we contribute to this world. Session four about Jesus and his birth, leading into his ministry and some of the expressions we hear for example, the good shepherd and how was this relevant to today's world. Session five was all about the death upon the cross and session six explored onwards with God or go our own way.

I am not going to say much more than this as another course is being planned for another time (*see page 26*) but I can tell you it has been very enjoyable; no pressure to share if you didn't want to and with a "Take it away weekly prayer" to say and a bible reading to reflect upon, it has been a true insight of what my faith means to me.

So, a big thank you to Kate and Paul for taking the time out to run this course and for all the tea, cake, strawberries and ice cream.

Also the reflective evening service on the first Sunday of the month, held at St Johns, has been very thought provoking at times, gave me goose bumps at other times, but it's always a pleasure to be there and the next few months we are going to be looking at the Old Testament and how it still speaks to us today.

I think by exploring our faith, looking at how others view faith and looking at the words in the Bible, we are changed and grow in some small way even if we are not aware of it at the time.

So, I found this short Quote by "Princess Sassy Pants and Co" -

Need I say more!

Love and prayers - Denise Smith (Reader)



ECO CHURCH - AN INTRODUCTION

At a recent meeting of the PCC, it was decided that the Parish would join the Eco Church movement, which is rapidly spreading in all Christian communities in the UK. We learnt a bit about this at the Parish Service on 28th July.

Eco Church is a free, online resource to enable congregations to look at the way they worship and work and think about making changes to become more environmentally friendly. It is one arm of the charity A Rocha ('a rock' in Portuguese), a network of Christian environmental organisations, founded in 1983 in the Algarve and now active in twenty countries.



The Eco church vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation, as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully. Caring for the environment is one of the five 'marks of mission' of the Anglican church and reflects our biblical call to be good stewards of creation.

The online survey invites us to reflect on all aspects of parish life - worship and teaching, buildings, land, community and global concerns and individual lifestyle

A preliminary look at this survey for Shirley Parish (and there were a lot of questions I could not answer) suggests that we are already in sympathy with the aims of Eco church. There is a score system which indicates how close we are to best practice and by making some small changes we could be recognised as having reached bronze, silver or gold status. In the area of worship and teaching we are already Gold. Land is a bronze and the remaining areas do not reach a 'winning' score but might be nearer if I knew the answers!

The Diocese already has a number of parishes which are in the scheme and now I have started looking, there are Eco churches all over the place!. The effort at Diocesan level, especially in recruiting Parishes, is also recognised by bronze, silver and gold awards. Birmingham is currently at bronze level.

You can find out more at -

<http://www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/environment/ecodiocese/>

ECO CHURCH continued

What would it involve?

- A more accurate survey, asking questions of the many people involved in running our churches at all levels
- Reflection on the responses and a decision about whether to align what we do with Eco Church best practice. This may have financial implications - for example, environmentally friendly cleaning products cost noticeably more than the basic ranges. The process would be different for the three congregations, reflecting the different ways we work, but I think we can pool ideas.

Any questions asked are not intended to be critical of current practices, which seem to be caring and thoughtful, but to make us curious to know whether we could do things better.

To find out more please speak to Kate Crocker (remembering that she is a beginner at this!) and visit <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

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'SHIRPAS' IN ACTION

On 31st July our Nordic walking took us - Shirley Parish walkers or Shirpas, as we like to call ourselves! - to the Lapworth stretch of the Stratford Canal followed by a coffee afterwards at The Boot.

It all made for a very pleasant morning.

Anyone is very welcome to join us. Please look out for future dates in this magazine or the pew slip.



Walks are leisurely and normally last for about one hour.

Chris Speakman



Elizabeth House

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A MILLION BRICKS OF ANSWERED PRAYER

A new UK Christian landmark is closer to becoming reality after obtaining a 10-acre piece of land near Birmingham. CEO of "The Wall of Answered Prayer", Richard Gamble, says this is a huge step towards the vision God gave him 15 years ago, to build a piece of public art with one million bricks, each representing an answered prayer.

A Christian businessman has donated the land and Gamble says the location is strategic. "A high-speed train line is being built next to it and it's an air path. So, about half a million journeys per week are going to go past this monumental architectural structure about Jesus."

They have also planned a visitor centre within the monument. Visitors will be able to read the stories of answered prayers that each brick represents and relate it to their own situation. Then they can discover the God who listens and who answers. Visit: www.thewall.org.uk to find out more.

COME AND TROUNCE THE VICAR AT SCRABBLE ?!

Most of you will have heard the **Tuesday Café** mentioned but not actually know much about it.

It is just that – a café on alternate Tuesday afternoons. The idea is to give people from across the parish, from any of our three churches, or from none, the chance to meet up over a cuppa and get to know each other better.

We do usually have some activities available although that isn't the main objective, but there are enthusiastic jigsaw puzzlers, some scrabble masters, and people who like a wordsearch. Usually we have a simple craft activity as well. But there is no need to join in, just come along and chat.

As well as giving us the opportunity to get to know each other better, this is a great way to invite friends or neighbours along to see for themselves what happens at the church. There are invitation cards in all the churches and if you know someone who might like to come along why not give them one, offer to come with them and join us for tea.



Sarah Penfold

SKITTLES & HARVEST FESTIVAL

It seems a long time since I have written for this magazine!

That is mainly because news comes from many different sources and people, websites, Facebook and Twitter, but I am not quite that up to date in that area. So hence the old pen and paper method.

There have been subtle changes in relationships between our three churches. I believe many of us are more settled, happy to share services with each other, as well as social events. The message of one parish with three worship centres is coming to fruition. Christ the King share a service with St Johns on a monthly basis, alternating the venue each time. We have come to know, understand and appreciate each other's uniqueness and I am pleased to say that all past feelings of apprehension and competition have abated as we realise and value each other's gifts and needs.

This is also true of our liaison with St James who we now share services with more regularly (every time that there are five Sundays in the month and on other special occasions). The bond is strengthening and as the clergy and readers move around the parish, we gain good experiences from each other.

Thanks must be given to Peter and Paul for their vision and guidance. Considering none of us like change, we are adapting very well, slowly but surely. I am positive that this is the way forward as if we don't change there will be fewer and fewer in our congregations. So next time you see Peter or Paul, don't forget to say thank you; change is a bit like swallowing medicine when you are not healthy, it doesn't taste very nice at the time, but in the long term you know it will be good for you.

I recently had a joyous and uplifting time leading a non-Eucharist service at St James; Sarah Penfold played the piano and preached for us. It was good to meet up with many friends and share coffee afterwards.

We are holding a **Skittles and Supper** evening on the evening of **14th September**. Tickets are available from Parish Office, or me, priced at £7.00.



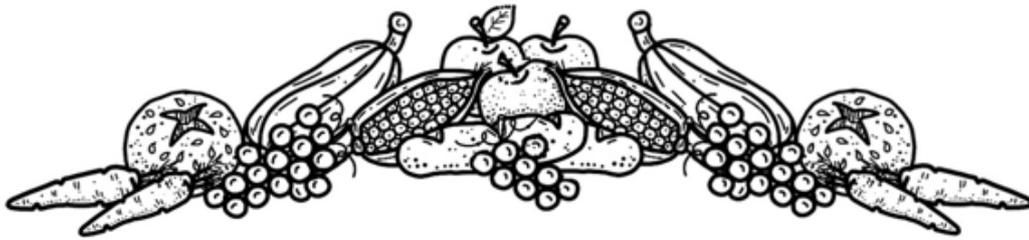
Although supper will be provided, please bring your own drinks. The venue is at Church House, time 7.30pm. Again, all are welcome and you do not need expertise to play. This is a light hearted evening of fun, fellowship and laughter.

SKITTLES & HARVEST FESTIVAL continued

We are looking forward to our **Harvest Festival** on **29th September** ending with a shared lunch. This is a Parish Event and will be hosted by Christ the King Church at Widney Junior School. Donations of food and harvest gifts will be forwarded via Elizabeth and David Paice to the Food Bank for distribution. All are welcome to come and celebrate the Harvest and give thanks to God for his goodness.

We have such a lot to be thankful for so why not join us on this wonderful occasion?

Gill Gough (Reader)




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MESSY CHURCH NEWS

“If only there were more children in our churches” is a phrase I have heard many times here in Shirley (and not just in Shirley – it’s an issue faced by many churches).

We live in a world where things are so different to how they were thirty years ago. Sunday is no longer a day when nothing happens – for many families it is one of the busiest days of the week – with clubs, sports fixtures, visiting relatives, shopping and more besides. Living close to the retail park I am well aware that Marshall Lake Road is at its most congested on a Sunday.

Added to that is the undeniable fact that people are less willing to commit than they used to be. Whereas a regular church attender used to be someone who came every week, it is now recognised by the Church of England as someone who attends every month or six weeks. Whereas families used to be content to adjust their lifestyles to fit in with church service times etc. that is no longer the case.

We have responded to this challenge by establishing a Messy Church each month on a Saturday morning in Church House. This complements the existing Messy Church held in Widney School on Thursday afternoons.

Messy Church gives families an opportunity to encounter God through activity, discussion, story and teaching, music and prayer. It is very informal – in fact it might appear somewhat chaotic – but there is an underlying order to it. Each session is based around a Bible story or theme; the crafts and activities bring out



elements of the theme; discussions are encouraged and the session finishes with 20-30 minutes where the theme is explored in more details and some response to God is made. All the while there is coffee, tea and toast available.

A key point to remember is that church is where people gather together to learn about God, to pray and to sing praise to him. So Messy Church is church; it is worship. It may not be similar to what happens on Sunday mornings, but it does enable people of all ages to connect with God in a way that is meaningful to them.

MESSY CHURCH NEWS *continued*

Of course, it raises all kinds of questions about how we encourage those who come to grow in their understanding of God and his purposes for their lives – and we are working on that challenge at the moment.

Saturday Messy Church began in January. Since then more than forty families have taken part – that's more than sixty children. We encourage all baptism contacts to come along to meet with Peter or myself. Some of these families have come back several times; some have brought their friends and relatives. Most months we have around twenty-five children and about the same number of parents.

And this is where you come in! We need plenty of people to help ensure it all runs smoothly, and that families get the most out of it. The thought of helping out with children or families can seem quite daunting – but in many cases it is just sitting down and being alongside another church person who is leading an activity. And even if that seems a lot, then just sitting and talking to parents while their children are doing activities is just as important. Come and have coffee and toast and a chat!

If you think that you might be able to help us in this really important area of mission to the Parish, then have a word with me, Sarah Penfold, Gill Gough or Kate Law-Jones. Or just turn up on a Saturday morning and see for yourself. We meet on the third Saturday morning each month – next one is **21st September**. Maybe we'll see you there!

Reverend Paul Day



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FOOD BANK NEWS

FOOD BANK: the combination of the long school holidays and the continuing problems with Universal Credit and other delayed Benefits caused a striking increase in the number of families being referred to “our” Food Bank in July and August. Even where both parents are working the increased cost of childcare to cover the holidays has a noticeable effect especially where budgets are critically tight to start with.



Your response to our emergency appeal for tinned fruit, boxed fruit juices and tinned meat was very generous – many thanks from the families whose bags of food we were able to fill to the recommended lists.

The work continues to put pallets of food onto the new shelves which are plugged to the wall. This will clear the floor for the annual deluge of supplies which usually comes in at Harvest Festival. One good clear day would probably accomplish this but ... just as Massis starts to load up one pallet an emergency call comes through from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for extra food parcels, or a supermarket rings up to say that their collecting bins are overflowing and please come and empty them – or one of the satellite food banks has a sudden rush and runs out of supplies - and the loading of the pallets has to wait whilst he dashes off.

The situation with (or rather without) the strong plastic bags is not good. Several supermarkets have stopped selling them: occasionally we have had to use the thin ones and double bag them – not a reliable way to carry heavy tins on a long walk home. Please continue to donate any which you may have and thank you to the folks who donate them regularly. A retailer donated some very large boxes of washing powder which were damaged; these are unsuitable for giving out to families but we have been trying to dispense some in large jars with screw top lids – coffee, mayonnaise type jars - do you have any which you could spare please?

The appeal this month is once again for **tinned fruit, boxed fruit juice, tinned meat and dried milk.**



FOOD BANK NEWS *continued*

Due to your generosity and the remarkable scrounging powers of Sarah Penfold, I was able to make up twenty bags of colouring books and crayons/felt tips to go on the Toy Table; I sneaked a toothbrush and child's toothpaste into each as well – here's hoping some mothers will take the hint!



**NARTHEX
SPARKHILL**

NARTHEX: a local firm has offered to decorate the Resource Centre at the Narthex in late August. I tend to believe these things when I see them! But hopefully by the time you read this, Carol will have a smart new area to interview her clients and kit them out. The Resource Centre room is about the size of four domestic garages, crammed with tall racks of clothing, cupboards of toiletries, cages of shoes, Moses baskets, potties, saucepans etc. not to mention a large playpen to contain Small Beings safely whilst their parents are being helped. This will all have to be pushed into the centre of the room whilst the walls are repaired, painted and decorated, some challenge. Then Carol will have to sort it all out again which means that we shan't be taking anything to her until late September. Please hang onto all duvets, bedding and toys until then.

shoes, Moses baskets, potties, saucepans etc. not to mention a large playpen to contain Small Beings safely whilst their parents are being helped. This will all have to be pushed into the centre of the room whilst the walls are repaired, painted and decorated, some challenge. Then Carol will have to sort it all out again which means that we shan't be taking anything to her until late September. Please hang onto all duvets, bedding and toys until then.

ADAVU: the workload became so great that sadly, and with great regret, Liisa has had to close her lists temporarily whilst she and her team try to cope with the traumatised victims of Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Slavery already in their care. As ever, Liisa is short of toiletries for her ladies (rarely a man) though we were able to help with dressing gowns and slippers recently. The latest victims of trafficking appear to be young Albanian women lured to the UK with promises of well-paid jobs. Very tragic tales.



Thanks everyone, you are wonderful with your support.

Elizabeth Paice



WE NEED TO USE LESS PLASTIC ...

While staying in Cornwall during the month of January, we were dismayed, when we turned over a very small piece of seaweed on Porth Beach, to find all the little bits of plastic you can see in this photo tangled up in it. High tide had been and gone, leaving what we thought was a very clean and tidy beach. We can only assume that vast amounts were washed back into the ocean.



Watching Hugh Fernley-Whittingstall's recent TV series on the inordinate amount of plastic and single-use plastic that fill shop shelves and therefore our homes has made many of us even more conscious that something needs to be done if we are to look after our earth and seas that surround it and the atmosphere around us. Plastic is already in our food chain and in the air we breathe.

Until manufacturers and supermarkets change the way they wrap and package goods, we are facing a huge uphill struggle to reverse the damage being done - but we have to start somewhere.

We need to make supermarkets aware as individuals that we do not want the problem of single-use plastic and actively ask them, verbally and in writing, to pursue alternatives.

What can we do? Do you have any ideas? Do let us pool our ideas.

Here is one that came out of a discussion around a coffee after the Shirpa (Shirley parishioners) walking group:

Having worked as a volunteer at the Foodbank, I am very aware of the need for bags to pack much-needed food parcels for clients to carry home. Inevitably, they have to be plastic. Touching the tip of the iceberg to start to solve this problem could well grow into something bigger if more organisations follow suit.

The conversation grew into the following:

... MAKING BAGS FOR THE FOOD BANK

We would like to start up a project on making fabric bags for clients to keep and use.

We intend to produce a simple pattern and instructions and maybe some fabric in shopping bag kit form.

We'll need:

- Volunteers to donate suitable fabric. (Sturdy fabrics from clothes/curtains - maybe from charity shops or the rag market or anything else you may have spare at home.)
- Volunteers to cut out
- Volunteers to sew (if you have access to a sewing machine).
- Volunteers with sewing machines to make some as individuals
- Groups to get together and make as few or as many as they can (**St John's Coffee Morning on 9th October will be supporting this** for example).

Any other suggestions for helping this project really take off would be gratefully received.

Elizabeth Paice has told me that about 150 plastic bags per week are used for making up food parcels. Let's start to make a difference.

Any suggestions and volunteers gratefully received.

When the Right Reverend Bishop David Urquhart attended the St James' Patronal service on 28th July, he promoted the Eco Church; let's make a starting contribution to it.

Chris Speakman

(Please contact me via the Parish Office and I shall get back to you)



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OUR PARISH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

- 1st THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
7pm: Reflective Worship at St John's Church
- 2nd** 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion
11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion
- 3rd** 11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 4th** 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
7pm: Eucharist and Guild of St Raphael at St James Church
7.30pm: 'Moving On' course at St John's Church
- 7th** 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 18 Widney Lane
- 8th THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- 10th** 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
7pm: Shirley Parish Book Club at Church House
- 11th** 10.30am: Macmillan Coffee Morning at St John's Church
7.30pm: 'Moving On' course at St John's Church
- 14th HOLY CROSS DAY**
8.30am: Parish Prayers at 18 Widney Lane
10.30am: MU Coffee Morning at 138 Tanworth Lane
7.30pm: Skittles and Supper at Church House
- 15th THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- 16th** 10.30am: Christmas Tree Festival Meeting at St James Church
- 17th** 10.30am: Mason House Holy Communion
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 18th** 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
7.30pm: 'Moving On' course at St John's Church
- 19th** 3.30pm: Messy Church at Widney School
7.30pm: MU at Church House – Troop Aid
- 21st MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**
8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church
9.30am: Messy Church at Church House
- 22nd THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
10am: Celebration of the ministry of Canon Richard Postill at St James Church

OUR PARISH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2019 *continued*

- 24th 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
 25th 4pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church
 7.30pm: 'Moving On' course at St John's Church
 26th 7.30pm: PCC Meeting at St James Church
 28th 8.30am: Parish Prayers
 29th **THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
 10.30am: Parish Harvest Festival at Christ the King Church

(Please check the weekly pew slips or the website for any changes and additions to the diary)*

*please also read about the proposed changes to the pew slips on page 22



SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - MAY 2020

There are still some spaces left on our Coach Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain, via the Spiritual Variant route, from 16th May to 21st May 2020, led by Reverend Colin Jones.



This will be a wonderful experience.

If you are interested, or just want to make some enquiries, please contact Reverend Dr. Theresa Jones who will also be going on the trip.

Tel: 01564 82 2687 or email: theresaj1@btinternet.com

OCTOBER 2019 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Thursday 12th September
PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 28th September

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE WEEKLY PEW SLIP

There are so many wonderful things going on in Shirley Parish that sometimes it can be hard to keep track of them all!

So we've been having a look at how we communicate our news and information to make sure that everyone can keep up to date quickly and easily. From the beginning of September we will be making a few changes. But don't worry – we will still have both the weekly pewslip and the monthly magazine.

We will refocus the pewslip so it gives up-to-the-minute information, headlines of what's coming, and reminders of what will be happening in the next week or two. We aim that it will be quite short, so it will be easy for people to scan through and see what is happening. Keeping items brief will also allow us to increase the size of the text to make it easier to read.

The magazine will become the home for longer articles, notifications, reflections and reviews. The magazine goes to quite a few people who don't come to church week-by-week, so it's also a great way of getting your information to a much wider audience and keeping them informed of what is happening.

These changes will mean a bit of planning ahead for some of us, but will help us all to keep in touch with what is going on.

So, if you have an item for the pewslip or an article for the magazine, this is what you need to do.....

Items for the pew slip: Please can you make sure your item is no more than three short sentences long, covering

- what it's about (e.g. an event, some news, an update on something),
- who it's for (e.g. everyone, members of a particular group, friends and neighbours)
- where and when it is (if it's an event), and
- who to contact (name, phone, email).

So that we can be fair to everyone, any longer items will be edited to this length. Recognising that it takes longer to be more concise, the deadline for the following Sunday's pew slip will be extended to 9am on Thursday morning.

Items for the Parish magazine: Longer items of news and information about future events are welcome for inclusion in the magazine. These need to be with the editor, Gill Hanton, by 12th of each month, ideally by email to shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com, or alternatively via the Parish Office.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE WEEKLY PEW SLIP

And, if you use the internet, don't forget that you can also keep up to date via our website <https://shirleyparishb90.wixsite.com/live> or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AdventureinFaithB90/>

Kate Day



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Wednesday 11th September 2019

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On Thursday 18th July we welcomed Rowena Nicholls, one of our Vice Presidents, who gave a talk titled 'Bring a Shoe'. Rowena commenced by handing out literature on the different styles of shoes through the ages starting in Jesus' time.



During her talk Rowena spoke about a pair of shoes that she had worn to a function at 10 Downing Street and she followed this by inviting members who had brought shoes along to tell their story on why their shoes held such special memories to them and the journeys of life that they had made. There was variety of styles ranging from ballet, baby's, walking boots, dolls to everyday shoes and each one held its own unique story. An evening enjoyed by all – thank you Rowena.

An afternoon cream tea was held on Wednesday 7th August in Church House. Thirty-five adults consisting of members and visitors plus one child attended. It was a very pleasant afternoon enjoying scones served with clotted cream and preserves plus a wide selection of cakes and endless cups of tea. A big 'thank you' to all who helped and supported us in one of the most quintessential of English customs.



Sue Knight

TROOP AID

Next meeting – **Thursday 19th September**
7.30pm in Church House – Talk on Troop Aid
from Al and Pam Sutton - all welcome.



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COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2019**



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STARTING AND MOVING ON

On page 6 Denise Smith talked about the START course which has been running on Thursday evenings through July and August. The last session was on 15th August.

The course has got people thinking about their faith and their journey with God and talking about all kinds of things that have not been aired before.

We are keen to keep these conversations going, so are putting on a follow-up course called "Moving On" which will be on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm from 4th September until 16th October at St John's Church.

We would hope that many who have been on the START course will come along, but it is open to everyone. We will be thinking more about our faith, the church and our roles within it, what it means to live in the Spirit, what we can offer to God and what it all means day by day. There will be ample opportunity to ask any questions you have – so why not come and join us?



If you want any further information, please contact Kate or Paul Day. Hopefully we'll see you there.

PS – there will be another START course coming soon – watch this space for more information about dates.



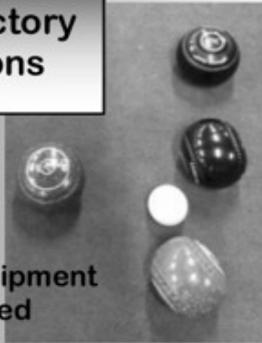
We'll be having a Christmas Tree Festival in December. If you have any ideas or can help in any way please come to a meeting at St James Church at 10.30am on Monday 16th September

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CONTINUING OUR SERIES ON THE BEATITUDES ...

'BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL'

'One difference between grace and mercy is that grace is getting what we don't deserve (favour), and mercy is not getting what we do deserve (justice).'

(R.T. Kendall). Jesus calls us to show mercy in our everyday relationships:

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.' (Matthew 5:7).

How are we to show mercy to others?

Firstly, we are to ***be merciful to those in need***, as illustrated by the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus uses this parable to challenge the lawyer about who showed mercy to the man, who was mugged on the road. *'The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.'* Jesus told him, *'Go and do likewise.'* (Luke 10:37). Our mercy will be demonstrated as we look out for those who are hungry, sick, outcast or lonely and show them practical love in meeting their needs.

... continued over the page

CONTINUING OUR SERIES ON THE BEATITUDES ...

Secondly, we are to *be merciful to those who have wronged us*. The natural response, when somebody upsets or hurts us, is to get our own back and seek revenge. We feel justified when we see things going wrong in their lives. However, we are called to demonstrate the same mercy and compassion that God shows us, leaving the situation in his hands: *'Do not take revenge, my dear friends...if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.'* (Romans 12:19,20).

The promise of this beatitude is that those who show mercy who will also receive mercy, for it is a divine quality of God himself.

'BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART'

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God' (Matthew 5:8).

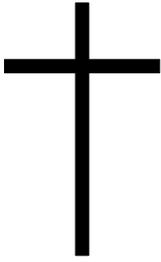
Simon Stylites was a Christian, living in Syria around 400 AD, who wanted to be totally pure in his devotion to God. In order to avoid distractions, he lived in the desert on top of a pillar for thirty seven years. Now is this what Jesus intended for the *pure in heart*?

Does being single-minded for God mean that our lives should be dominated by *'Christian'* activities, like Bible reading and prayer, and that God isn't really interested in the rest of our lives? To be pure in heart is to *make God the number one priority* in our lives. When this happens everything else in our lives, including work, leisure, relationships, time, money etc, will fall into place. When our overall aim is pleasing and serving God, we'll find many ways of working this out in practice.

To be pure in heart also means we aim to be *completely sincere in all our relationships*. In a culture where the pressure to conform is very great, it means living life in an open and honest way, with nothing to hide. This is the way God intends us to live, as we operate from a pure heart before Him. The challenge is relating to others without any hidden agendas, so that *'what you see is what you get'*!

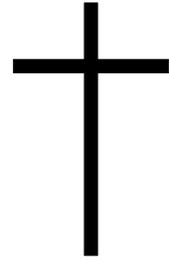
Jesus promises that God will reveal Himself to the pure in heart and that one day they will see God face to face. Deception blinds us, while purity opens our eyes to see God.

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Coffee Morning

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Saturday 5th October 2019 at 10.30am in Church House

The Friends are now collecting Bric-a-Brac, books etc. for this event and would welcome your contributions, which may be left in the Parish Office. Also, we would welcome cakes for the cake stall on the day of the Coffee Morning, please.

Don't forget to come along and support us on the day!
See you there!



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CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"'
(Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes
according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th century
Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his
servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist'
(Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed'
(1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is'
(Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi
(Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord
(Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

Answers are on page 37

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WORDSEARCH - HOLY CROSS DAY

Holy Cross Day (14th September) is when the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. It began back in the fourth century, when Helena, mother of the Christian Roman Emperor Constantine, travelled from Rome to Israel to seek out places of special significance to Christians.

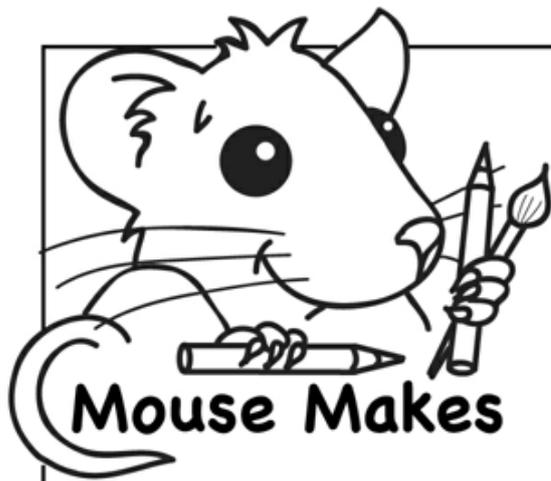
Much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans in 135 AD, but even so, Helena located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. And that church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14th September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing about AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

BURIAL
CELEBRATE
CHURCH
CONSTANTINE
CROSS
CRUCIFIXION
DAY
DEATH
EMPEROR
HELENA
HOLY
ISRAEL
ROMAN
ROME
SEPULCHRE
SIGN
SITE
SYMBOL
TRIUMPH
VICTORY



*Answers are on
page 37*



What is your most valuable treasure?

The Bible tells us that the most valuable thing you can ever have is something that can **NEVER** be lost, broken or stolen.

The most **valuable** thing you can have is to be **friends with God** through Jesus.

Read: Matthew 6:19-21

The **LOVE** of money is at the root of all sorts of what?

_____ *1 Timothy 6:9-10*

What should you be on your guard against?

_____ *Luke 12:15*

What did Jesus ask the rich man to do?

Read: Luke 18:22-26

What is it good to be rich in?

_____ *1 Timothy 6:18-19*

What two things can't you serve at the same time?

_____ and _____ *Matthew 6:24*

What is better than gold?

_____ *Proverbs 6:16*

Who supplies all your needs?

_____ *Philippians 4:19*

What is like a hidden treasure?

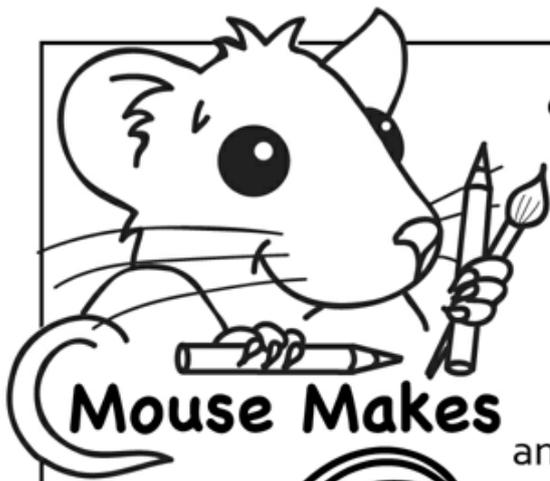
_____ of _____ *Matthew 13:4*

Who has all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?

_____ *Colossians 2:2-3*

How many other words can you make from...

TREASURE IN HEAVEN



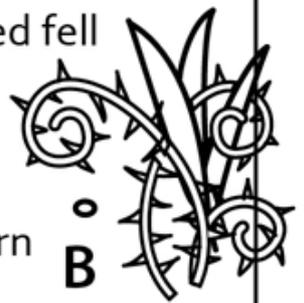
Mouse Makes

Read the story in Mark 1:1-20



Once there was a man who went out to sow corn. As he *scattered* the seed in the field some of it fell along the **path** where it was stepped on and **eaten** by the birds. Some of it fell on **rocky ground**, when the plants sprouted they **dried** up because the soil was dry. Some of the seed fell among **thorns** which grew up with the plants and **choked** them, and some seed fell in the **good** soil; the plants grew and produced corn

- a hundred grains each!



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J D L S H O R E O
G R O W U H L A K E
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R L G H S S P R O U T
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PUZZLE ANSWERS



D	A	N	E	L	E	H	L	R	N	E
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PARISH REGISTERS

ST JAMES' BAPTISMS

August	4th	Noah Thomas Forrester-Harrison Zach Arthur Forrester-Harrison
	11th	Harriet Sallyanne Watkins
	18th	Darcy Bill Ronnie Lee Bishop
	25th	Amelia Beatrice Kavanagh Savanna O'Dowd Lois Garry

PARISH FUNERALS

June	27th	Evelyn Fathers	88
July	1st	Lilian Kemp	92
	4th	Margaret Williams	92
	5th	Hubert Birch	
	8th	Maurice Hunt	
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	19th	Barrie Ager	87
	23rd	Byron Smith	72
	24th	Grace Mason	80
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	30th	Leslie Hunt	93
August	8th	Michael Smith	65



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