



January
2024

Shirley Parish Magazine



**In God alone my soul quietly rests,
for my hope comes from Him. Ps 62:5**

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

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**FOR ANY ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE PLEASE CONTACT
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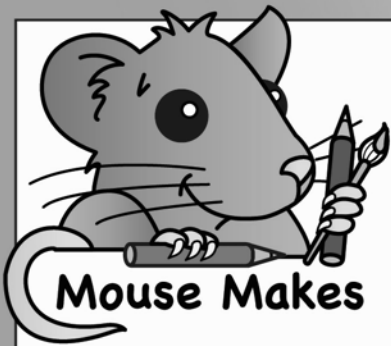
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Deadline for information and articles for next month's magazine: 12th of the month

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EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.



Where was Jesus born?

 Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?

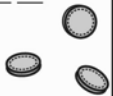


Who was the king?

 Luke 2:1

and -----

Luke 2:11



Where did the wise men come from?

the -----

Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?

In a -----

Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?

a -----

Luke 2:2



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



Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

JESUS
 WISEMEN
 WORSHIP
 SHEPHERD
 KING • JEWS
 CHRIST • CHILD
 BORN • RULER
 ISRAEL • REJOICE
 JOY • HOUSE • MARY
 GIFTS • EPIPHANY

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

JOURNEY TO THE STABLE 2023

At the end of the Journey in 2022 Paul and I agreed that we needed a new nativity play. And I had the mad idea to get it written by a group of people. We met in May to set out what was needed, and several months and two draft versions later we hoped we had what was needed. Our first run through, to check the timing, was hilarious with four people reading all of the parts. Our second, with a full cast, and using our stage, was fruitful if scary in parts. We had a play.

'Old Joseph' and 'Old Mary' sat reminiscing about what happened when Jesus was born. Shepherds and wise people visited, and an angel voice echoed spookily round the church with an angel image on the screen. The heavenly host played a trumpet fanfare, and the star remained firmly in place over the manger.

We were visited by 550 children from 11 schools during the week, and as well as the play they did Christmas related activities around the church. There were sheep to cuddle in the shepherd's fields, gold, frankincense, and myrrh in the wise man's house. The children made a decoration from craft sticks, and went into our 'Christmas room' where they learned how modern customs link back to the original story.



One of the highlights of our play is the entry of Jesus, played by a number of different 2023 babies. They bring their Mums with them to take the part of a young Mary and when they are carried in the children gasp in delight. The babies make it such a memorable occasion and we are so grateful to this year's stars (and their Mums).

The new play meant new lines to learn, different places to stand and some of our team were apprehensive. But every session worked and as the week progressed, we felt more and more confident. Thanks to everyone on the team, often working beyond their comfort zone, in the play or running the activities, or helping to keep the children safe. Without you all none of this would be possible. And thank you also the people who went along with the mad idea to have a play written by a group of people. We know that some teachers visit every year and have commented on how they liked the changes.

Sarah Penfold

No-one is quite sure how long we have been running Journey to the Stable for. The best guess seems to be around 25 years. For those who don't know, the Journey to the Stable is a week long event in St James Church to which we invite the year 1 children (5-6 year olds) from all the local schools. We present the Christmas story using a drama (not exactly RSC standard!) and various activities that the children take part in.

Over the week children from schools come along one morning or afternoon each day – so by the end of the week between 500 and 600 children have been to the church and (usually!) enjoyed themselves immensely. We always say to the team that the most important thing is not what the children learn, but that they go away thinking that their time in church was fun and the people were welcoming.

We did a few calculations this year and reckoned that over the years around 15,000 children may well have been to the Journey! Amazing!

I would like to thank all those involved – more than 20 church members give up the whole or part of the week to be part of the team – and particularly Sarah Penfold who holds it all together.

And of course, it's not just at Christmas. A similar thing happens a few weeks before Easter each year when we invite year 5 children to hear and experience the Easter story – the Easter Journey. Put the date in your diary now - 11th to 15th March - and have a chat to Sarah if you would like to help!

Reverend Paul Day





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MU PARTY FOR UKRAINIAN GUESTS

It is nearly two years since Russia's invasion of its neighbour Ukraine and news coverage of the war is now sporadic in the United Kingdom - except when something noteworthy happens outside the grim realities of two armies at war. There are new conflicts claiming our attention and financial support, so we hear less about the needs of Ukraine and its people. However, a number of families have escaped to start a new life in the West Midlands, living with hosts or sponsors, while they hope for peace to come so that they can go home and rebuild. Some of us have contact with them.

Mothers' Union is an international family charity which shows God's love by caring for the wellbeing of both parents and children. Discussing the situation of Ukrainian children in Solihull, the MU branch in this parish decided we would like to offer something special to show our Ukrainian guests that we care about them. Many are women who have brought their children out of danger and left their partners to fight for the country they love. Some fathers are in the armed services, while others are doing essential work. The families living here are very aware of the dangers which are part of life for their friends and relatives living in Ukraine, and they worry about them. Their smart phones keep them in touch with the conflict. They know which towns have been hit by drones or air strikes overnight, which are struggling with no electricity or limited water supplies. So we thought it would be kind to invite them to an 'autumn party' designed for the children. A chance to forget the worries about family or the problems of living with a strange language and a different culture, for an afternoon.

About 40 guests arrived at Church House on November 18th and children ranged from 18 months to 13 years.

We were very lucky that Adam Pitt was free to bring a selection of unusual animals to meet the children and they were spellbound as he showed them each creature and explained what was special about each. The first was a beautiful snake, a young Royal Python and the children were all encouraged to carefully hold him. When an older python came from behind the screen it was so big that all the children could hold it at the same time if they stood close together!



We met a tarantula, a chameleon, an American bullfrog, a Caribbean iguana, a snapping turtle, a skunk and a young barn owl. We discovered that they were all interesting and, that we should not be afraid of unfamiliar things, though some could be dangerous and all deserved care and respect.

After the animals the guests enjoyed typical party food and the afternoon included games and each child took home a party bag.

We received many thanks on the day and later by email:

'I want to thank you - we had a lot of fun. Thank you for the treats and gifts for the children. Thank you for the good you do for us.'

The Prokofiev family

'It was so kind of you and all who organized that amazing party for Ukrainian children. Our family had a good time and we really appreciate what you all are doing for us.

I cannot stop being amazed how you support us, how you do not stay indifferent and distant. The world has gone mad lately and people like you and your friends just give us hope that there is still place for kindness, compassion, and humanity.

My gratitude doesn't have boundaries.

Thank you very much.'

Tetiana K

There was real value in showing these guests, living in the UK, that we are their neighbours and we care about their situation.

Reverend Wendy Carter

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Mothers' UNION

A Very Happy New Year to you all.

Our Advent Service on the theme of 'Hope and Light' prepared by Linda Pitt was held on the 6th of December and led by Reverend Richard Haynes.

By now members should have received their Branch Newsletter and 2024 programme. Members annual subscription for 2024 of £29.00 is now due, payment to the Treasurer would be appreciated by the 23rd of January please.

There will be no meeting in January. However, there will be a Wave of Prayer on Tuesday 16th January in St James Church at 11.00am.

Our next monthly meeting will be the A.G.M on Wednesday 7th February at 2.00pm in Church House. All our meetings are held in Church House at 2.00pm on the first Wednesday in the month except for the August meeting.

Visitors are most welcome to any of our meetings.

Susan Knight

DATES FOR YOUR NEW DIARY

6th March – Jo Roberts Hill - 'Finn's story'

3rd April – Easter Social Afternoon

1st May - Rowena Nicholls, Diocesan MU Trustee

5th June – Rev. Kathy Lloyd Roberts – 'How I became a Vicar'

3rd July – Rev. Nigel Jones about his time as a Prison Chaplain

1st August - Evening – Desert Island Discs

4th September – RNLI – Lorraine Hoskings

2nd October – Mary Bodfish – 'Lest We Forget'

6th November – Jan Dalton – Craft Session

4th December – Advent Service



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

Join us for our upcoming event

Dementia café

First Monday of every month
10.30am - 12 noon

Join us for our regular free dementia café at Blossomfield Grange. Aimed at those living with dementia and their loved ones, you'll have the opportunity to meet other people, share experiences, take part in our fun activities, and get advice and support.

Contact home to RSVP.



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LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARDS ...

At this time of year Kate and I usually write a Christmas letter to send to friends that we don't see very often, giving news of ourselves and the wider family and some thoughts of what we have been up to through the year.

So, I was wondering what would be in such a letter for the Parish here in Shirley. Maybe something like this ...

In 2023

- We had a wonderful Confirmation service with Bishop Anne at the start of the year
- We hosted the World Day of Prayer service for Shirley and the RBL 90th anniversary service
- 'The Friends' organised many fundraising events – Shirley Band concert, history evening, candlelit supper and more
- We walked and prayed around the Parish Boundary
- Wendy Martin was licensed to the Parish as Associate Priest
- Richard Haynes was ordained at the cathedral and joined us as Curate
- We were very social – St John's cream tea and coffee mornings, Quingo, Jigfast, Harvest supper etc
- We joined with other churches in Shirley in the Walk of Witness, a Unity service, the Shirley Carnival and the carols outside ASDA
- We said farewell to Hannah and Ellie in the office
- We launched the Pod project, obtained quotes for the work and started to apply for grants
- We made great steps forward with the new heating project for St James
- Christ the King Church moved into the new classroom at Widney School
- We watched the Coronation on the big screen
- The Eco Group led a thought-provoking Harvest Festival service
- We launched our Parish Prayer Book
- The school chaplaincy team led our Sunday worship one week
- We learned together of God's love and purposes for us through sermons, study groups, Lent groups and the Opening the Book Bible day
- We ran another START group
- We welcomed many children into the church through baptism including one at Messy Church
- We continued to support the Food Bank, ADAVU and Narthex charities
- The Remembrance parade service was back at the memorial in the St James Churchyard

- Sadly we lost some of our long standing members – Joyce Ferris, Doris Hyde, Brenda Goudie, Janet Butts, Barry Robinson and Nick Ball
- We took 1000 children on Easter and Christmas ‘journeys’
- Many, many people enjoyed our Christmas Tree Festival
- as well as regular Messy Church, Jimmy Tots, MU, Welcome Café, Ploughman’s lunch, Care Home services, Sunday Lunch Club, churchyard working group, Open the Book sessions in schools, Bible Art, bell ringing, Book Club and, of course, Sunday and Thursday worship
- and many other things which I have not got room for (Sorry!)

WOW! What a year ...

And let’s just take a quick peep at some of the things that might happen in 2024 – of course some more certain than others!

- Our new Bishop – Bishop Michael – will begin his ministry in the Diocese
- There will be a Quiet Day at the beginning of Lent and a Creative Prayer Day in May
- Richard will be ordained priest in July
- The Pod Project will be completed
- The new heating system will (hopefully) be installed
- The Church of England will allow prayers for blessing for same sex couples

and some more general things for us all to look forward to:

- We will all grow in our faith and understanding of God’s love for us
- We will welcome new members into our churches
- We will continue to reach out with God’s love into the community
- We will be surprised at God’s generosity and faithfulness!
- We will continue to develop links with our local schools

Can I thank everyone across the Parish for what you have done over the past year – there is (as you can see) much going on here and it can only happen because of wonderful committed people like yourselves.

Reverend Paul Day



NEW YEAR

One of my delights is to read ecclesiastical diaries. What can be more enthralling than to settle down by the fire on a cold winter's night and read something of the daily life and worship of a country parson from the past? For instance, the Rev'd William Jones, Vicar of Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, records in January 1802:

'Surely the life of a clergyman, if his mind be properly disposed and attuned ... is of all lives the most happy.'

He goes on to pity the poor unfortunate who enters such a life as a mere profession or business, seeing his daily round as drudgery because his heart is not in it. He does, though, have his moments of complaint claiming that he is defrauded by some of his parishioners who 'hate to hear the word 'tithes' spoken'.

In his marriage, also, life was not all roses since he had married a lawyer's daughter who *'possesses such a wonderful volubility of speech, such a miraculous power of twirling and twisting every argument to her own interests, that I am no match for her. She has mastered better the sublime art to "puzzle right and varnish wrong" than any Old Bailey solicitor throughout the Kingdom!'*

Many of us, no doubt, will have attempted to keep a diary, or some type of journal, detailing our lives over the years. For those who have managed to sustain such a discipline it can be good to look back and see the different phases through which we have passed; the ups and downs, the joys and the sorrows. Much as the astrologers of today might claim to be able to foretell the future it is, generally, unpredictable and most people feel as though they are 'hostages to fate,' a term once used by a Jewish Rabbi.

For the Christian, though, there is something else, and it is that never ending spirit of hope that accompanies us as we journey on to each New Year. We can have reason to be optimistic since we are recipients of another type of journal: the gospels. Here we can plot the ministry of Jesus; here we can enter into a life of love and compassion, a life of sacrifice and total commitment to the Will of God. Here we can take a look into the future, we can learn of a heavenly banquet prepared for the faithful, and of the promise of eternal life to those who believe.

In 1708 the Rev'd James Clegg, minister of a church near Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire, wrote in his diary:

'Lord humble mee, give mee zeal, blow the fire'

perhaps that is a prayer to think about for 2024.



A later writer, Kathy Galloway, a member of the Iona Community, wrote:

*'God of our lives,
you are always calling us
to follow you into the future,
inviting us to new ventures, new challenges,
new ways to care,
new ways to touch the hearts of all.
When we are fearful of the unknown, give us courage.
When we worry that we are not up to the task,
remind us that you would not call us
if you did not believe in us.
When we get tired,
or feel disappointed with the way things are going,
remind us that you can bring change and hope,
out of the most difficult situations.'*

May God bless you, and yours, in the year that lies ahead.

Reverend Theresa Jones

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Sunday 10am - 4pm

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - SMARTER RECYCLING

It's obvious, isn't it? Recycle as much as we can to reduce waste and help conserve resources. Save the planet. We all know this.

Yes, but it's far from simple. So many goods are made up of different parts which have to be handled separately and the rules keep changing. We need to get it right because mistakes can cause collections to be dumped in landfill rather than recycled.

Paper, bottles, cans are pretty straightforward (although paper hand towels and tissues are regarded as contaminated and are not recyclable) but plastic is a bit of a minefield. When the wardens empty the recycling bins in St James's Church and Church House, we are regularly dismayed by the amount of unsuitable material present, food, teabags, hand towels, cling film, balloons, tinsel, packaging labelled as unsuitable for kerb-side collection and more.

We need to get better at this! Some suggestions:

- *Check any information on the packaging. If it says not recyclable or not recyclable at the kerb-side, use the rubbish bin.
- *Follow the guidance on the notice on top of the recycling bin.
- *Recyclable materials which are contaminated with food or soaking wet are better in the rubbish bin.
- *If in doubt, it is better to use the rubbish bin than to contaminate a bin of recyclables.

We will try to find ways to remind and support everyone in this important activity and all ideas are welcome.

Happy New Year!

The Ecochurch Sub Committee



Our Welcome Cafe will open again on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 and every Tuesday morning from 10am until 11.30am in Church House

Pop in for chat, company, hot drinks and home-make cakes

We look forward to welcoming you



SHIRLEY GARDENING SOCIETY

Looking for a New Year resolution?
Come along and join us in 2024

Our society meets in Church House,
Church Road, Shirley on the second
Monday of most months, from 7.45p.m.
We have very interesting speakers most
months, and other events throughout
the year. Annual membership is only £15
which includes the meetings with free
refreshments as well, visitors pay £5 for the
evening including refreshments and if they
join the same evening that goes towards
the membership.

Continuing our seasons programme...

January 8th... we welcome new speakers
Jo and Brian Walker with 'Alpine Plants in
Switzerland'

February 12th is our 'Light-hearted Quiz'
March 11th... New speaker Josh Egan-Wyer
with 'What have we got that's New for You?'
And finally Gary Leaver will talk on
'Perennials for Shade' on April 8th

For further information
call 705 4530
Why not join us!



FOOD BANK NEWS

You may recall that David and I help out at the satellite Food Bank in St John's Church in Sparkhill. It is open each Wednesday morning and can be very busy. The volunteers work hard to create a pleasant atmosphere offering hot drinks, toast and jam, etc. whilst folks wait their turn to be served. (On arrival they are given a numbered ticket to ensure that everyone is seen in strict order - no queue jumping!) We try to give a small toy or book to each child arriving with a parent – this cheers up the child but also brings a smile to the parent's face, reducing the strain we hope. During the recent cold weather we have made sure that each child has a warm hat and mittens but we are short of warm wraps to put over their knees in the pushchairs (hint to the knitters amongst you?). But of course, the food parcels are the critical items. Some weeks the local vegetable and bread shops will let us have their leftovers from the day before, and we share those out to supplement the basic provisions in the standard bags.

Before Christmas we also had a table of new and nearly new toys, books and clothing which a parent could select for each of their children and it was gift wrapped for them to take away.

Some of the folks coming in the hope of a food parcel have only recently been moved to the area, to shared accommodation, and have nothing. Thanks to your recent donations of cutlery, we are able to provide those, but we have now run out of bowls and plates - are there any surplus at the back of your cupboard you could pass on please?

You were all so kind last year to folks just down the road who are really struggling to survive - on their behalf 'Thank You'.

Elizabeth Paice

COFFEE MORNING



Monday 8th January 2024

10.30am until 12 noon

**including
an
'unloved
gift swap'**



All are welcome!

**St John's Church, Tilehouse Lane
Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW**

Christmas Treecycling

For a donation, the volunteers at



will collect your real Christmas Tree
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OUR SERVICES IN JANUARY

| Date | Time | Service | Venue |
|---------------|---------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Thursday 4th | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St James Church |
| Sunday 7th | 10.30am | Parish Communion | St James Church |
| | 3.30pm | Reflective Worship | St James Church |
| Thursday 11th | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St James Church |
| Sunday 14th | 8am | Holy Communion | St James Church |
| | 9am | Holy Communion | St John's Church |
| | 10.30am | Morning Worship | St James Church |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion | Christ the King Church |
| Thursday 18th | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St James Church |
| Saturday 20th | 10am | Messy Church | St James Church |
| Sunday 21st | 9am | Morning Worship | St John's Church |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St James Church |
| | 10.30am | Morning Worship | Christ the King Church |
| Thursday 25th | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St James Church |
| Sunday 28th | 8am | Holy Communion | St James Church |
| | 9am | Holy Communion | St John's Church |
| | 10.30am | Worship 4 Everyone | St James Church |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion | Christ the King Church |

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

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

DATES FOR YOUR NEW DIARY

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES

AGM - Tuesday 13th February 2024, 7.30pm
in Church House

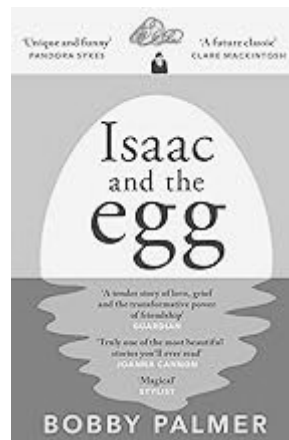
Coffee Mornings with books, bric-a-brac etc. -
Saturday 2nd March 2024 and 5th October 2024



SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB - COMING TO TERMS WITH GRIEF

Many of us will have had to come to terms to grief during our lives, and for those who haven't, it will come. Friends help, church helps, work sometimes helps and, of course, reading often helps. The Book Club's most recent read came to us by word of mouth from other book clubs. Grief and how to deal with it clearly occupies a lot of people.

Isaac and the Egg by Bobby Palmer begins with a man called Isaac Addy standing on a bridge thinking about jumping. He doesn't know how he got there, he can taste drink in his mouth, he can see his car at one end of the bridge, door open, lights on. In despair he screams. The river below seems to stop running, the forest goes silent and time – as Louis MacNeice's poem, 'Meeting Point' says – 'is away and somewhere else'. Then, out of the silence, something screams back. Isaac goes in search of the scream and finds, not a person as he expects, but an egg. It's about two feet tall, eerily white and breathing. Isaac instinctively knows that, like him, the egg has been abandoned. He knows he has to take the egg home.



Isaac's life has fallen apart. His wife has been killed in a car crash and he is struggling to cope with the pain of his loss. He has cut himself off from family and friends. There is something about the egg Isaac finds in the forest that responds to his pain. When he takes it home he finds it is it not just an egg. It's alive - some sort of alien – a bit like ET. As the story moves forward we see the egg trying to become human and, in the end, trying to find his way home – just as Isaac is trying to become human again after his loss and trying to find his way back to family, friends and home.

That's all folks. No spoilers. Read it. Discover the surprises at the end. Be reassured about coming through grief.

As usual, Book Club readers have differed in their responses – from 'loving it' to just being intrigued by it. The subject made some of us a bit tentative, but all felt some level of reward from staying the course. Grief has come into more than one of our novels this last year – *A Terrible Kindness* about Aberfan and *Pigeon English* about knife crime in London. Books that ask questions and challenge us to unravel answers.

For each of us in our own lives, grief often ends in some sort of consolation. Or we hope it will. So it is with *Isaac and the Egg* and so it is with us whenever we engage with our own feelings prompted by what we read.



Book Club concluded 2023 with an idea from Finland – called ‘Jokabokaflud’ where we gave each other a surprise book present hidden in brown paper. Then in early 2024 we will complete our list of ‘best reads’ for 2023 and publish the list in the February magazine.

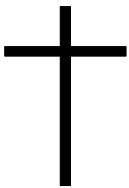
If you like company, tea and biscuits and listening to people talk about what they have read (among other things), please look out for the February Book Club meeting in Church House. You will be welcomed with open arms – and books.

Our next read is, *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. Drinking coffee and time travel!

Ray Speakman



Monumental Masons



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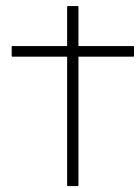
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A WALL OF POPPIES

We are proposing that we have a display of knitted or crocheted poppies at Remembrance time in November.

This has been done in other towns and cities and this year it is the time for Shirley Parish and our neighbours to have a go.

Several thousand poppies will be required so we need to start now.

There are many patterns available on the Internet but the one printed below is very easy, even for inexperienced knitters.

A crochet pattern is also on the next page.

Patterns will also be available from the Parish Office.

Please have a go yourself and also involve family, friends and neighbours.

Donations of red wool/yarn would be gratefully received.

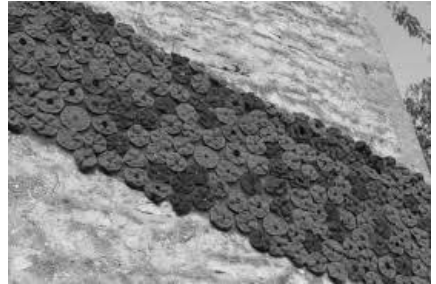
'Many hands make light work and many poppies!'

Linda Pitt

Knitted Poppies

You will need

- A pair of 4mm/size 8 needles
- Any DK red yarn
- A small black button



Cast on 60 sts

Rows 1-8 (K2, P2) to the end

Row 9 (K2tog) to the end of the row (30 sts)

Row 10 Slip 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together, then pass the slip stitch over.....repeat across the whole row to end (10 sts)

Break of yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread tail through remaining 10 sts and pull tight. Join edges, fasten off yarn.

Sew a black button in the centre of the poppy.

Alternate method for the centre of the poppy

Using black yarn, cast on 16 stitches. Cast off. Coil into a spiral and sew to the centre of the poppy.

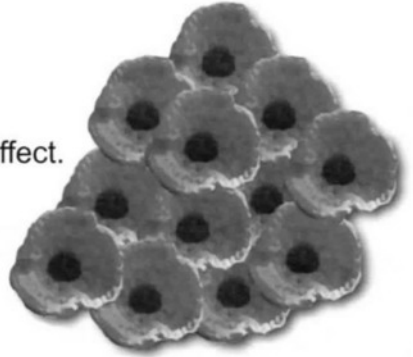
Knit To Remember Poppy Patterns

Crocheted Poppy Pattern

Yarn - Any red and black, I used DK.

Hook - 3.5mm, but try larger too to see the effect.

Size of the finished poppy should be no smaller than the paper ones sold for Remembrance Day.



The Red Bit

Round 1: Make a magic loop, make 10 dc in the loop and draw tight, join with ss.

Round 1 (alternative): Make a starting chain of 4, ss to form a circle. Make 10 dc in the circle and join with ss to first dc.

Round 2: *ch1, dc, ch1, 2tr in next st, 3tr in next st, (2tr ch1 tr) in next st, ss in next 2 st. rpt from * around and join with ss.

Round 3: *ch1 3dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next 5 sts, 3dc in next 2 sts, ss in next 2 sts. Rpt from *around, fasten off.

The Black Bit

Make a magic loop, 8dc into loop, tighten and fasten off.

OUR SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

A big 'well done' and 'thank you' to Jan Dalton and her team for the delicious meals that they serve at our Sunday Lunch Club.

As well as the excellent food, funded by donations, it is a happy social occasion, especially for those of us that are on our own, giving an opportunity to meet together, share fellowship and friendship and have a good natter whilst enjoying the meal that has been prepared for us.

We are looking forward to those being planned in 2024.

Gill Gough and Denise Smith

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

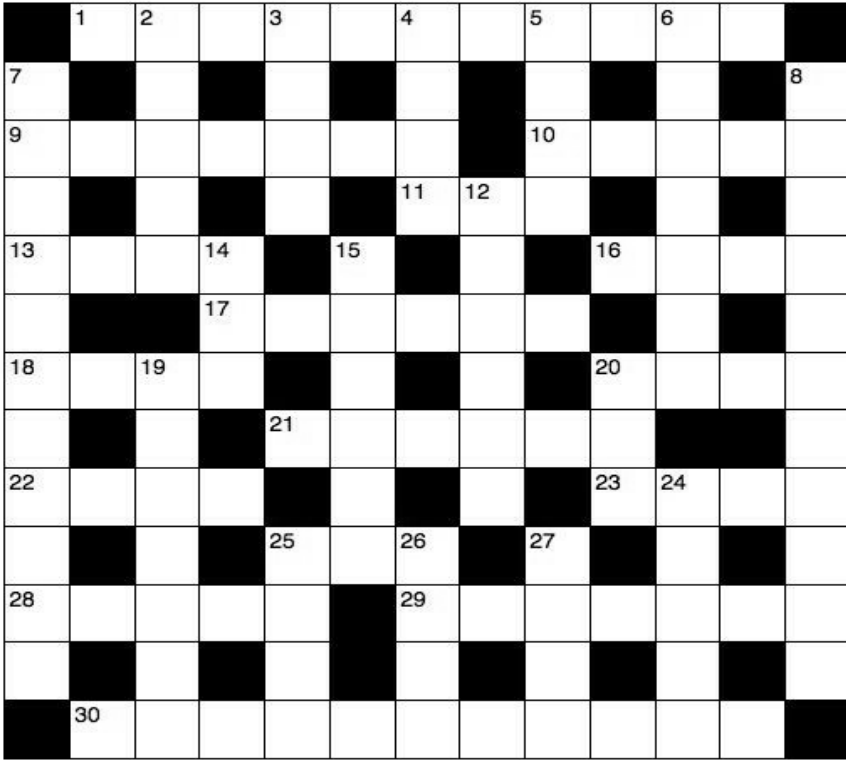
ACROSS

- 1** Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9** Go smite (anag.) (7) **10** 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11** 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3) **13** Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16** 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)
- 17** 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)
- 18** Opposite of evens (4)
- 20** Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21** 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22** The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 23** Beat (anag.) (4)
- 25** To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)
- 28** Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)
- 29** Attain (Job 5:12) (7)
- 30** Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

DOWN

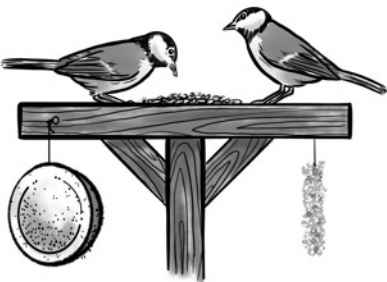
- 2** Smell (John 11:39) (5)
- 3** Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)
- 4** 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)
- 5** Tidy (4)
- 6** Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)
- 7** Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)
- 8** Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)
- 12** The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)
- 14** Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)
- 15** Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)
- 19** 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)
- 20** D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)
- 24** Rarely used musical note (5)
- 25** 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)
- 26** and **27** 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)
- 27** See **26** Down

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



Answers are on page 27

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JANUARY WORDSEARCH

The Wise Men and St Paul were both on trips when they first encountered Jesus, but how different those trips were! The Wise Men, whom we remember on Epiphany (6th January) were seeking the One for whom the Star shone, and came to Bethlehem to worship him. St Paul, whose conversion we remember this month (26th January), was on his way to Damascus, seeking to kill those who worshipped Jesus. When the Wise Men encountered the Baby Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. When St Paul, the proud, fanatical Pharisee, encountered Jesus, he fell blinded on the road, and then worshipped Him by giving Him the rest of his life. St Paul endured years of suffering and hardships in his work as the great apostle to the Gentiles. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.



Answers are on page 27

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APOSTLE
 BABY
 BETHLEHEM
 BLINDED
 CONVERSION
 DIFFERENT
 ENCOUNTER
 EPIPHANY
 GIFTS
 GOLD
 JESUS
 KILL
 MEN
 PAUL
 PROUD
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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS - NOVEMBER 2023

Baptisms

- 18th Grace Evie Appleby
19th Isla Mauretta Julie-Ann Ellis

Funerals

- 1st Janet Butts
16th Barry Robinson
22nd (James) Trevor Eames
23rd Jane (Glynnis) Ackrill



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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

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE *continued*

READERS

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