



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

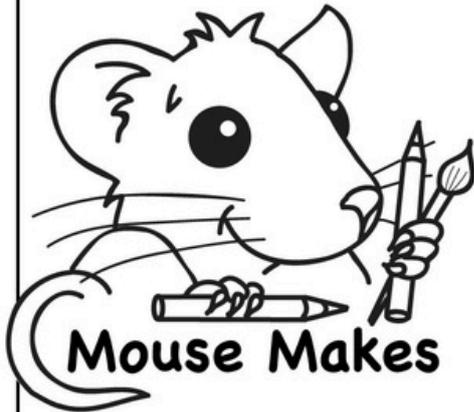
MAR '26 - ISSUE 12

LAST TIME

In February;

- We made a Good Thoughts Wheel Spinner - to encourage us to think helpful and positive thoughts. We made Spiral Snakes to help us remember the story of Adam and Eve and the snake that tempted them.
- We played Temptation Bingo - Who had the most temptations?
- We did Temptation Left or Right - Which way did you have to turn?
- We made Daffodil Cupcakes, the edible Lenten Lily which represents Spring and the Christian season of Lent.
- We wrapped a bar of chocolate - Can you resist temptation and not unwrap it until Easter?
- We made Lent cards that include an Ash Cross. (The Ash was made by burning last year's Palm Crosses.)
- We decorated Desert Stones - to remind us how hard being in the desert would be for Jesus.
- We made Lent Bowls - these included a prayer for lent and were used to take our crafts home with us.
- The Lego Challenge was to build a Lego Desert.





Mouse Makes

During Lent read through the Gospel of Luke and each day pray for God to help you become more like Jesus

Lent is the name given to the **40 days** before Easter and is a time to *pray*, to *read* the bible and to *turn* to God. The first day of Lent is **Ash Wednesday**, a day to *repent* and say *sorry* to God for the wrong things we have *said* or *thought* or *done*.



REPENT



FAST



REFLECT



FORGIVE



READ



PRAY

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

Can you find these words in the word search above?

LENT • ASH WEDNESDAY • FORTY DAYS
 JESUS • WILDERNESS • TEMPTATION • PRAY • FAST
 DENY • REPENT • SORRY • FORGIVE • GIVE • HELP
 PREPARE • REFLECT • THINK • READ • SCRIPTURE
 BIBLE • WORD • REMEMBER • WORSHIP • GOD

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Messy Church - 21st March, 18th April

Worship4Everyone - 22nd March, 26th April

Meet the Team



Gill Hanton

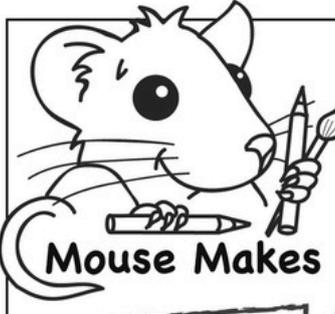
I am one of our Parish Wardens, so I am working with our Ministry Team and Emily in our Parish Office to try and ensure that Shirley Parish runs smoothly and continues to flourish while we wait for a new Vicar to be appointed.

On Sunday mornings I am involved in worship at both St John's and St James Churches.

As I edit and produce the monthly Shirley Parish Magazine I am able to help Rosemary with the Messy Church Newsletter, finding some of the material that she needs.

During the week I work full times as a Pensions Administrator, partly from home and partly from an office in Birmingham City Centre.

Whenever I can, I enjoy long walks, especially along our canals, and I am looking forward to the Spring and celebrating Easter with everyone in the Parish.



Mouse Makes

SHROVE TUESDAY
During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did. Pancakes are often made to use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.



ASH WEDNESDAY
The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said** or **thought** or **done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.
In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance. In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



WHAT IS LENT?
When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone. For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do. Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God. This time is called **LENT**

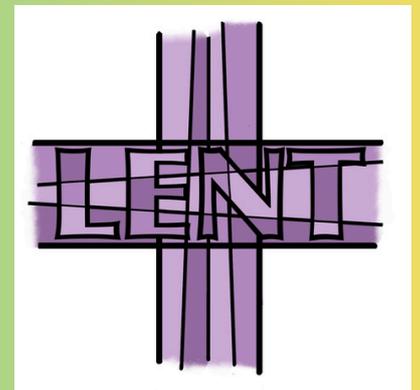


While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil **three** times.

Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.

- 1** The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**
- 2** The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**
- 3** The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**

Dear Lord,
Please forgive me for
.....
Amen



Our Messy Church Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
you are awesome.
Show us who you are,
and who you want us to be.
Make earth more like heaven.
Please give us what we need to keep
going each day.
Help us when we are wrong,
and clean us up on the inside.
Help us to forgive others and to move
on.
Keep us from bad stuff.
You're in charge!
You're strong and powerful and
always there. Forever!
YES!**