

SHIRLEY PARISH



KNOWING CHRIST  
MAKING HIM KNOWN

**NOVEMBER  
2021**



**Shirley Parish Magazine**

# SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also page 31)

CLERGY

## Vicar - Reverend Paul Day

18 Widney Lane, Solihull B91 3LS  
email: pgday@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0121 537 9672

## Reverend Wendy Carter

134 Shakespeare Drive, Shirley B90 2AR  
email: revwendy@sky.com

Tel: 0121 744 6315

## Reverend Nick Ball

12 Apsley Croft, Kings Norton, B38 0AF  
email: nicholaseball@hotmail.com

Tel: 0121 243 1336

## Reverend Theresa Jones

email: theresaj1@btinternet.com

Tel: 01564 822687

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>

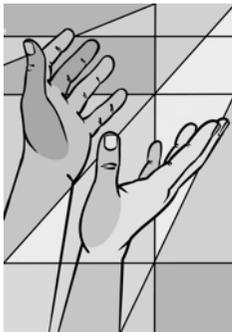
Social Media: [twitter.com/@ParishB90](https://twitter.com/ParishB90)

[facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90](https://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 NOVEMBER

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Time</b> | <b>Service</b>      | <b>Venue</b>           |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 4th         | 10.30am     | Holy Communion      | St James Church        |
| 7th         | 8am         | Holy Communion      | St James Church        |
|             | 9am         | Morning Worship     | St John's Church       |
|             | 10.30am     | Holy Communion      | St James Church        |
|             | 3.30pm      | Reflective Worship  | St John's Church       |
| 11th        | 10.30am     | Holy Communion      | St James Church        |
| 14th        | 9am         | Holy Communion      | St John's Church       |
|             | 9.30am      | Morning Worship     | St James Church        |
|             | 10.45am     | Remembrance Service | Shirley Park           |
| 18th        | 10.30am     | Holy Communion      | St James Church        |
| 20th        | 10am        | Messy Church        | Church House           |
| 21st        | 8am         | Holy Communion      | St James Church        |
|             | 9am         | Morning Worship     | St John's Church       |
|             | 10.30am     | Holy Communion      | St James Church        |
|             | 10.30am     | Holy Communion      | Christ the King Church |
| 25th        | 10.30am     | Holy Communion      | St James Church        |
| 28th        | 9am         | Holy Communion      | St John's Church       |
|             | 10.30am     | Morning Worship     | St James Church        |

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Sermon Theme</b>                           | <b>Readings</b>   |
|-------------|---|---|
| 7th         | The coming of the Spirit and the early Church | Joel 2: 28-29<br>Acts 2: 1-13<br>John 16: 5-11                  |
| 14th        | Remembrance Sunday                            | Daniel 12: 1-3<br>Hebrews 10: 11-25<br>Mark 13: 1-8             |
| 21st        | Christ the King Sunday                        | Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14<br>Revelation 1: 4b-8<br>John 18: 33-37   |
| 28th        | Advent Sunday                                 | Jeremiah 33: 14-16<br>1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13<br>Luke 21: 25-36 |

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

Open every Tuesday in Church House

**10.00 am – 11.30 am**

# WELCOME CAFE

Drop in for a cuppa, a chat  
and a piece of cake.

Open to everyone!



*What a joy to be with friends drinking tea and coffee in our old Church House again, hosted by an excellent team - Myra, Ann and Doreen who did a splendid job considering it was all new ground to them. Thank you ladies!*

*Talking of new ground - how amazing is that new garden at the back of Church House? Yet again, a huge 'thank you' to the team who created and applied heavy graft to achieve this.*

*Liz Blakey*

## PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Surgery and Home Visits

**JONATHAN LEESE** D.Pod.M., M.Ch.S

**HCPC REGISTERED**

**Tel: 0121 733 1292**

**193 Creynolds Lane, Shirley B90 4ES**



**The Friends of St James Walking Club -  
next walk will be on Sunday 7th November -  
contact 'the Friends' for more details or  
phone Christine on 01564 823217**

## **THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB**

**Congratulations to the October winners**  
£50 - David Paice £25 - Margaret Foreshew

The 100 Club was started to provide another income stream for The Friends other than the fund raising events they carry out.

Membership is £26 per year which can be paid either for six months or twelve months - due on 1st December and 1st June. Members are given a permanent number which is entered into a monthly draw, which takes place on the 1st Sunday of each month. The first prize is £50 and second prize £25. An additional draw is made in December.

Membership subscriptions can be paid either by cheque (payable to Friends of St James 100 Club), by cash or standing order.

If you are interested in becoming a member please speak to a member of The Friends committee or contact Lynda McPherson on 0121 439 8711.

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The main Sunday service at St James Church will be live-streamed onto YouTube, Facebook and the phonline (0121 798 0196) and can also be watched/listened to once the service is finished.

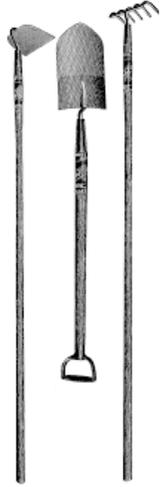
**ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX**  
**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, Widney Junior School, Clifton Crescent, Solihull B91 3LQ**  
**ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW**

## ST JAMES'S CHURCHYARD VOLUNTEERS

Some talk of Alan Titchmarsh and some of Monty Don,  
Or even Percy Thrower, from days that long have gone.  
But of horticultural heroes, there's none that can compare  
(With a mow, snip, scrape and sweep up)  
To our churchyard volunteers.

The grass it keeps on growing and the weeds sprout all around.  
Two acres take some mowing, and the paving gets moss-bound.  
Undaunted, every Wednesday we wield our hoes and shears  
(With a mow, snip, scrape and sweep up)  
We're the Churchyard volunteers

We're leaving space for wildlife, and planting flowers for bees.  
We're tidying up the footpaths and trimming back the trees.  
And its exercise with friendship, so give three hearty cheers  
(With a mow, snip, scrape and sweep up)  
For our churchyard volunteers.



*Kate Crocker*



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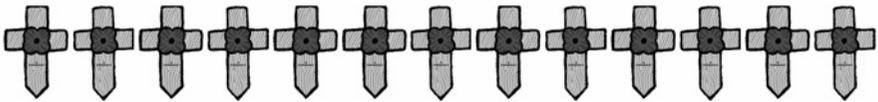
## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 14th NOVEMBER 2021

As there is an issue with road closures, the Remembrance Sunday parade has moved from the Stratford Road to Shirley Park this year. The parade will form up around the area of the children's play area and march to the Royal British Legion Memorial led by the Shirley Pipe Band. The service that in previous years has been held at St James's will be held at the RBL memorial including the wreath laying.



All participants of units parading, and members of the public, are encouraged to take regular flow tests and not to attend the event if they have a positive test. Government and public health advice around isolating should be followed if anyone has tested positive for Covid. Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend. A small service will also be held at St James's on 11th November.

The morning service at St James Church will start at **9.30am** on Remembrance Sunday.

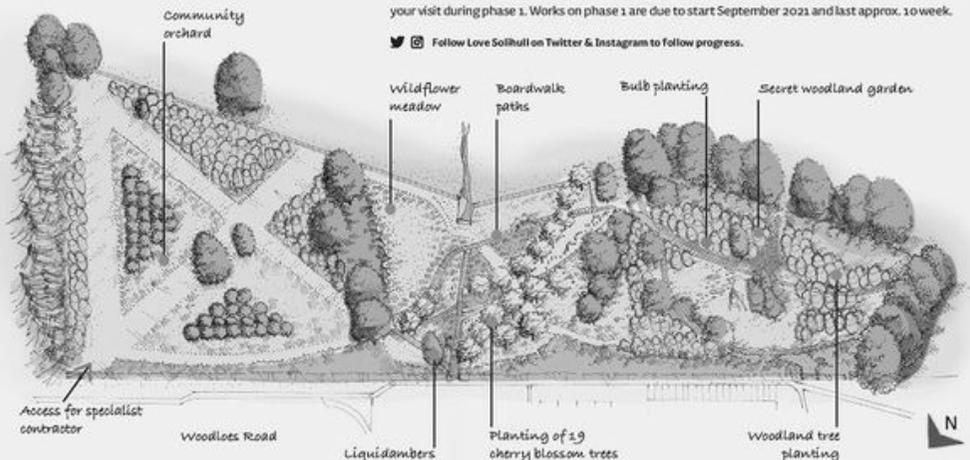


## OPENING SOON - off Woodloes Road ...

### Hope Coppice, Solihull

SMBC are planting a new woodland for residents and families in remembrance of those affected by Covid-19 and to make our community more resilient to Climate Change by creating further green corridors, increasing bio-diversity and creating new habitats. We apologise for any disruption to your visit during phase 1. Works on phase 1 are due to start September 2021 and last approx. 10 week.

Follow Love Solihull on Twitter & Instagram to follow progress.



## CARING FOR CREATION

This month sees the eagerly anticipated COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. As Christians, we need to hold together two key insights, if we are to engage with the challenge of climate change:

*The world is not ours:*

*'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1).* The world is not ours, but God's! If we understand this, we will rediscover the responsibility of our calling to care for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). This challenges our consumer mindset, that says the resources of the earth are both limitless and exist for our pleasure. As well as caring for the planet, we also need to care for its people, for it's the poorest who will suffer the most from climate change. According to the World Bank, 100 million could fall into poverty by 2030. We cannot properly address the climate crisis until we re-learn our place in God's world!

*We belong to Christ:*

We also belong to the one in whom: *'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.'* (Colossians 1:16). We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.



**10.30am  
Wednesday  
10th November  
at St John's  
Church**

***All welcome!***



*...if you have been affected by any  
of the issues raised in this sermon...*

## IN THE STEPS OF ST CUTHBERT

*St Cuthbert was born into a noble family in the 7th Century (probably in 634) in what is now Southern Scotland – the Border Country. He was a soldier, but on the night that St Aidan died (Aidan was the man who brought Christianity from Iona to Northern England, and in particular to Lindisfarne or Holy Island and the surrounding area) Cuthbert had a vision. This led him to becoming a monk, initially at Melrose Abbey in the Borders.*

*Later he became Guest Master at a new monastery at Ripon, but then returned to Melrose where he became prior. This was followed by him being made prior at Lindisfarne, before he became a hermit on the Farne Islands, dedicated to prayer. In his latter years he was persuaded to leave the Farne Islands to become Bishop of Lindisfarne, but he resigned and returned to his hermitage in 686 as he felt he was ready to die which he did the following year.*

*He was much loved in those lands – spending a lot of his time walking amongst his people and caring for them, preaching the word of God.*

Kate and I have just returned from our holiday where we spent the first week walking the St Cuthbert's Way. This is a long distance footpath from Melrose to Lindisfarne, Holy Island – some sixty five miles linking those two important places in Cuthbert's life.



But it's not just a long distance footpath – it's also a pilgrimage route where we could remember Cuthbert and his many journeys and ponder on the influence he was to the people of those lands as he brought the good news of the gospel to them. The starting point is the Abbey in Melrose – not the same one that Cuthbert founded – that was a couple of miles downstream and nothing remains of it today.

So we set out from Melrose on the Tuesday morning, knowing that we had fifteen miles of walking in front of us before our first night in Jedburgh. We knew too that the pilgrimage began with a steep climb up the Eildon Hills. We hadn't done much hill walking for some time (there is a distinct lack of hills in Shirley!). Would we be able to handle the hill and that distance?

... continued over the page

## IN THE STEPS OF ST CUTHBERT *continued*

And yes, the climb was a bit of a struggle, but the rest of the day was easier. Through moorland, farmland, villages and then a stretch alongside the River Tweed, seeing salmon fishers casting their lines and herons waiting on the banks. As afternoon approached the weather slowly got worse and the day finished with a four mile trek in the pouring rain along the course of Dere Street – a Roman Road that once stretched between York and Edinburgh, parts of which Cuthbert would have known well. Our first day finished with a comfortable B&B and a good meal (thankfully the B&B also had a good drying room!).

Next day the sun was shining and we enjoyed a pleasant walk alongside the Jed Water, across fields and through woodland; we lunched by the ruins of Cessford Castle (built in the fifteenth century) watching the potatoes being harvested in the nearby fields. We finished the day in the small village of Morebattle, famous for having a street named Teapot Street! (Though apparently the history of the street name is less interesting – the village tip was down there and over the years Tip Street became Teapot Street).



Thursday was a short (!!) seven mile walk over the wonderfully named Wideopen Hill which was very exposed and very windy. We passed a stile on which was pinned a notice saying we were half way (but our guidebook said that in fact the true half way point was in Kirk Yetholm where we were staying that night). Kirk Yetholm is also the Northern endpoint of the 268 mile long Pennine Way. We witnessed a young couple celebrating the end of their three week walk up the backbone of England (another year maybe?).



Day four was reputed to be the most challenging day, across the moors to Wooler. It started with a long climb during which we crossed the border from Scotland to England. It was a lovely clear day and the views were spectacular. Lunch was had sheltering from the wind behind a dry stone wall, after which we began the descent into Wooler. We could see the town and thought we were almost there, but the route took a slight detour and (for the only time on the walk) we missed the waymarkers and got hopelessly lost for a short while. But we were warmly welcomed at the B&B in Wooler and enjoyed a well earned rest (and a very early night!).

## IN THE STEPS OF ST CUTHBERT *continued*

Saturday's walk took us across more farmland, estate land and through some lovely forests to leave us in Beal, just a couple of miles from the coast where the tidal causeway to the island starts. When the Vikings invaded the north of England in the ninth century the faithful monks from Lindisfarne carried Cuthbert's coffin across the country to keep it safe, eventually finishing in Durham in the predecessor church of Durham Cathedral. En route they supposedly spent the night at a cave – known as St Cuthbert's cave – midway between Wooler and Holy Island. This was where we had our lunch for the day.

The crossing to Holy Island is either by the vehicle causeway or on the Pilgrims Path across the tidal sands. Unfortunately, the tides were not right for us to use the Pilgrims Path so we crossed the causeway, and arrived in the village on Holy Island just in time to join the morning service at St Mary's Church. A fitting end to a wonderful walk. We spent the rest of the day enjoying the island – one of those "thin places" where earth and heaven seem so close. We hadn't arranged to be walking the pilgrimage route with others, but we soon discovered we were not alone on the path. We met up with Joyce and David from Glasgow and Steve from Wakefield at various times, sharing lunch stops, evening meals and conversation. Friendships developed as they so easily can when walking together and their company enriched the whole experience.



Would we do something similar in the future? Certainly yes! The rhythm of walking with a purpose was relaxing and life enhancing and something that we would love to do again.

*If you would like to find out more of the story of St Cuthbert a good place to start would be the historical novel **Cuthbert of Farne by Katherine Tiernan**. Based on known facts she develops a backstory which brings Cuthbert and his contemporaries to life. It is highly recommended.*

*Reverend Paul Day*

## OUR 2021 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL CHARITIES

Donations received at this year's Christmas Tree Festival (see page 16) will support the work of the following charities -

### The Adavu Project

The Birmingham Methodist District's Adavu Project works to tackle the horrendous crime of modern slavery in the West Midlands. Operating since 2011, their four areas of work are:



- Long term support to adult survivors of modern slavery making the transition into a life in the local community
- Advocating justice in relation to the issue of modern slavery
- Building partnerships to prevent and effectively respond to modern slavery
- Raising awareness and understanding of modern slavery to enable others to effectively respond to it.

Adavu's specialist casework support offers emotional and practical assistance to adult survivors to rebuild lives of freedom, hope and dignity in the long-term, assisting them to be part of their communities. They have a small team of four staff and some volunteers.

Over the past five years Adavu have supported almost 170 survivors and they have worked hard to help influence policy and ensure the voice of survivors are heard. Adavu are entirely dependent on the goodwill and generosity of individuals and charitable organisations to enable their work and every bit of support makes a difference to the men and women that they support and gets them one step closer to ending modern slavery.

### Akamba Children's Education Fund (ACEF)



Providing dignity and opportunity  
through education

**acef**

This charity supports the work of a remarkable school in the slums of Nairobi called Brainhouse School. The school provides a home, a place of security, personal welfare and a brilliant education to around 900 students, a quarter of whom are orphans.

Before joining Brainhouse, many of the students spent their days searching waste heaps for food, some prostituting themselves, others committing crime to 'earn' a few coins to buy food or water – education was the last thing on their mind.

## 2021 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL CHARITIES *continued*

Today ACEF is giving the 900 young people who attend Brainhouse Academy what every child should have – their dignity, their safety, food and education. Every penny donated goes directly to supporting the health, welfare and education of the children and vulnerable young people who attend the school.

A small donation goes a long way –

£5 will provide twelve nourishing meals a month

£15 will buy a menstrual cup providing menstrual care and dignity for a girl for ten years

£45 will pay for one place on a six month vocational training programme

£60 will feed an orphan for a year.



# FOR SALE



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**Desk Calendar for 2022**  
 ~ featuring local photos  
**£5 each or three for £10**  
**Profits from sales will be**  
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Available from Gill Hanton  
 Telephone or text - 07973 942145  
 Email - [gill.hanton@btinternet.com](mailto:gill.hanton@btinternet.com)



Advent Sunday is  
**Sunday 28th November.**  
 Churches in the area are invited to take part in an Advent Carol Service at 6pm in Lapworth Church. There will be a choir leading the singing, and if you would like to be part of the choir, please arrive at the church by 4pm for practice. All singers are welcome.

## ADAVU, FOOD BANK & CLOTHING BANK UPDATES

**ADAVU:** In the October Parish Magazine I told you about the babies due to two of the ladies being supported by ADAVU, a baby girl due on December 18th, and one (not sure yet!) on December 24th. Now I have been asked if we can help another mother-to-be whose baby is due at the end of March! So far I have had superb donations of clothing, nappies, baby toiletries and pushchairs for the December babies – both ladies are very excited about the items which they will receive at the beginning of November. Now I have to start all over again for the March baby – I have a Moses basket with a stand and bedding, some clothing and toiletries but a couple more packs of nappies, wet wipes and baby vests would be very welcome. I should like to give particular thanks to three local Nurseries where the parents have rallied round very generously after contacts from within the parish.

As you will see from Sarah Penfold's article on page 17, no sooner is my dining room clear of baby items, then we start collecting for the ADAVU Christmas party and presents. I am still waiting to hear the exact numbers but am basing my thoughts on last year's number of 30 women, 2 men and 21 children (7 under one year old). It would be very handy to think that those Under Ones had grown into Under Two's, but it doesn't work like that – the Home Office can move folks into another area of the country completely at very short notice if their safety is at risk and finding them accommodation as they leave Home Office hostels can involve moving to another area too. I will let you know the numbers as soon as I know.

**FOOD BANK:** the colder weather with increased heating costs and the removing of the extra £20 is creating a perfect storm. So far reserves are just about holding but supplies of tinned fruit, tinned tomatoes, dried milk and UHT fruit juice are dropping noticeably - even a single tin from us all makes a difference, please.

**CLOTHING BANK:** As you may have read last month, we have stopped collecting items for the Narthex to concentrate on ADAVU requests, but occasionally new underwear/socks are needed, and I slip those requests into the pewslips.

Once again this is a 'Thank You' and 'Please Can You Help' article; you are all so kind to folks whom you will never meet but who thank you, usually with tears.

*Elizabeth Paice*

**2pm in Church House - All welcome**  
**November 3rd**  
**Desert Island Discs**  
 with Reverend Paul Day and Ray Speakman  
**December 1st**  
**Advent Service**

**Mothers' UNION**  
 Christian care for families  
 Diocese of Birmingham

SHIRLEY PARISH

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MAKING HIM KNOWN

# JIGSAW SALE

## Raising funds for a bench in the new Church House Garden

Photographs of the jigsaws available  
can be seen on our website /  
Facebook page or have been  
included with the magazine

Any questions ~ please contact Linda Pitt (0121 744 6777)  
or the Parish Office



### SHIRLEY GARDENING SOCIETY

(Formerly Shirley Horticultural Society)

We are a friendly Society which meets up every  
second Monday of the month (excluding August)  
in Church House B90 2AX at 7.45pm

If you discovered an interest in gardening over the last year why not come along  
and join us.

We have a range of speakers in our programme for next year.

On **November 8th** "Growing Orchids at Home"

For further information call 0121 705 4530 - New members are warmly welcomed

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# CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Thursday 9th & Saturday 11th December  
10am - 5pm

Friday 10th December  
10am - 8pm

Sunday 12th December ~  
2pm - 3.15pm

followed by Community Carol Singing outside ASDA

plus a Craft Fair in Church House  
on Saturday 11th December ~  
10am - 3pm

*Donations will support the work of*



**acef**

Providing dignity and opportunity  
through education

The  
Adavu  
Project

St James Church, Church Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 2AX

## 2021 CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE

You will have spotted the cards and crackers in the shops and be hoping that this year Christmas will not be in any way cancelled or reduced. And so once again we are thinking of the clients of ADAVU and what we can do to make sure they also have a Christmas that isn't cancelled. The current rules will allow us to use the tree and the gift labels again and we will be working to the following timetable:

**7th November** ~ The tree goes up in church

**14th – 28th November** ~ Gifts are brought on a Sunday or to 34 Arnold Road B90 3JP (please not to the Parish Office as the girls have enough to do)

Early December ~ ADAVU collect the gifts to distribute to their clients.

As before, we are asking you to take a label (or labels) from the tree, buy the gift, wrap it, attach the label to the outside and bring it on a Sunday morning. Please leave colouring books and children's stationary items unwrapped so that we can easily put them together into combinations for the children we are giving to.

If shopping is a problem, we are happy to accept cash donations which can be used to fill any gaps in what has been given – it is only at the last minute that we have complete information on numbers and especially ages of children. For anyone who wishes to contribute but cannot get to church to collect some labels here is a shortened list of items that we would like:

*Men's basic toiletries*

*Men's warm socks*

*Medium size boxer shorts*

*Small bars of chocolate (no nuts)*

*Small torch with batteries*

*Girls pants*

*Boy's pants*

*Colouring books*

*Women's pants size 12*

*Women's warm socks*

*Basic toiletries*

*Small jar of coffee*

*Small packs of tissues*

*Washable felt tips*

*Filled pencil cases*

*First jigsaws*

*Sarah Penfold*



## DECEMBER 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY

Friday 12th November

## STARTING A NEW LIFE

By the time you are reading this it will be six months since Graham died, so how have I found this very strange life without him in it?

I have found that doing things at first with the family, initially helped not only myself, but them also, to accept he had gone. To be able to explain to the younger members of the family that Grandad is out of pain now and is with Jesus in heaven, also helped as we made it sound like a good place to be with Jesus in his house and garden, and yes, he is once again walking our dog Candy who had died a few years earlier. It all helped to get some of the emotions out for us all.

Then after the funeral everyone returned to their lives going back to work, some to school and college and nursery, everyone was busy again.

So where did I fit into life now as a one woman show, so to speak?

I started by going to church, then the Tuesday Cafe and crafts, enjoyed a ploughman's lunch, helped out with the christenings on a Sunday, started back to 'Open the Book' and Messy Church.

I got to make some new friends and was getting to be known as the Reader from Christ the King Church as lots of members of the churches in our Shirley Parish still didn't realise who I was.

Then some friends of mine asked me would I like to go to see an Elvis impersonator, yes of course I would, after all I grew up on Elvis as my parents played all his songs on a regular basis. So I bought my ticket and was looking forward to going.

But the evening arrived, and I suddenly realised this is the first outing to something other than church things, that I would be going to without Graham.

My head was telling me you can do this, my heart was saying, how without him?

So, I plucked up the courage and went. Yes, I felt at odds with myself, was quieter than usual, but proud I had taken that step out of my comfort zone and yes, I did enjoy myself.

I have made sure that I give myself breaks to be by myself to just simply be alone with my thoughts and feelings and also to take each day at a time.

I am now preparing myself to face my birthday, his birthday, Christmas and New Year, the first without him.

## STARTING A NEW LIFE *continued*

Its small steps now that in the future will lead me to taking bigger strides.

I trust in God and so when I know I am maybe going to have a wobble I ask him for guidance and strength, but I remember to thank him also.

So that's a little about how I am coping.

*Love and prayers, Denise Smith (Reader)*

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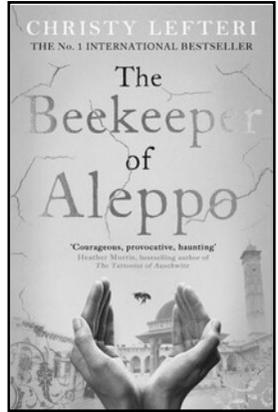
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## SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

### *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

It might be worth beginning this account of our reaction to this novel by saying that several of the Book Club found themselves quite upset by the experience. At least two readers gave up on it, temporarily, but then found then had to return and complete the experience. The best way to summarise the way we have all felt during this encounter is, quite simply, to draw together a collection of quotations from our members' emails. I have to say that the various responses to *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* are the most emotional I have experienced from our group. Tears and anger.



Some examples:

'I found the book profoundly moving.'

'I think *The Beekeeper* is one of the best and most important books I've ever read.'

'How can we not take seriously the plight of these ordinary human beings and not be prepared to share our wealth, our democracy and our care?'

'It is so relevant to both the times we live in now and also to times in the past. My mother was a refugee who had to leave her country in 1944 and had experiences similar to those of the two main characters, Nuri and Afra. Lots of hardships endured but also lots of compassion and hope.'

'This is a painful read.'

'The plight of the wingless bee was captivating and a clever metaphor for the struggle of all the different characters.'

'The novel shows the power of the mind and how a sudden shock (the death of Afra's son in her arms) can produce an intense physical reaction. She goes blind. It is only when the painful wanderings of Afra and her husband begin to come to an end in England, does her sight begin to return.'

'A powerful thoughtful book.'

'Sometimes I think we try too hard not to let the real world beyond our shores impinge on our lives.'

'A brilliant book'.

## SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB *continued*

‘Even the style of writing, with its forwards and backwards movement in time, seems to emphasise uncertainty and tension.’

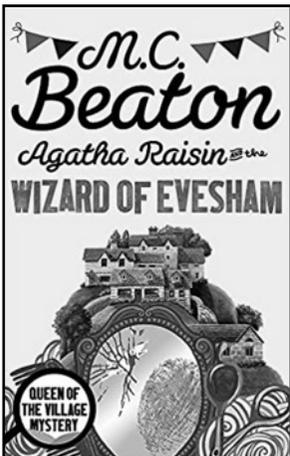
As we were reading this novel, which was written in 2019 after the writer had spent a summer working with Syrian refugees in Athens, a good number of us felt somewhat ashamed that our main talking points in late 2021 are shortages of petrol, gas and, perhaps, turkeys for Christmas. If that is the extent of our nation’s concerns, as one of our members wrote, then perhaps this novel ought to be on a recommended reading list for those who govern us.

Clearly we need to put aside any insular selfishness and try to see the world with ‘compassion and hope’.

It has been mentioned before that some of us find books like *The Beekeeper* challenging. By personalising global issues and making us feel strongly for the narratives’ main protagonists, we are drawn into living inside some painful experiences. Many of us feel the need to confront world issues through our reading. Some of us would rather find out about such experiences through factual reporting rather than fiction.

Some of us too, would rather use our reading, for some of the time anyway, as an escape from reality. As a result, our next read has been suggested in order to take us away from refugees, shortages of lorry drivers, a struggling NHS and too few people to undertake too many jobs.

So - the next book is: ***Agatha Raisin and The Wizard of Evesham* by M.C. Beaton.**



AND fairly soon, we should be able to meet face to face to enthuse or grumble about our reading. Stand by - for news of a daytime meet-up in early November perhaps.

I know that several people see these summaries of Book Club activities in the Parish Magazine and are often tempted to read the books. If you are one of these ‘once-removed’ members, why not think about joining us – face to face (watch the Pew Slip for the first meeting) – or contact me via the Parish Office?

*Ray Speakman*

## THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

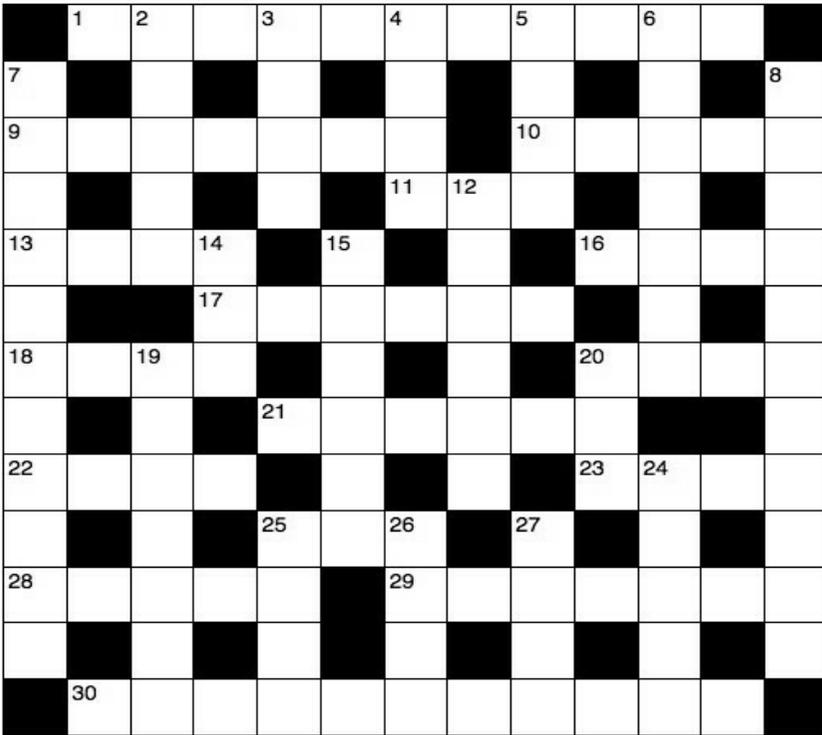
### Across

- 1** In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)  
**9** 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God'  
 (Ephesians 5:5) (7)  
**10** City on the banks of the River Nile (5)  
**11** Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)  
**13** Taverns (4)  
**16** 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)  
**17** 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)  
**18** and **27** Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)  
**20** Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)  
**21** She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)  
**22** A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)  
**23** Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)  
**25** 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)  
**28** Annie (anag.) (5)  
**29** Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)  
**30** Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

### Down

- 2** 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands'  
 (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)  
**3** Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)  
**4** 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me'  
 (Psalm 92:10) (4)  
**5** — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)  
**6** 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)  
**7** 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)  
**8** 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)  
**12** Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)  
**14** 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)  
**15** Liverpool dialect (6)  
**19** 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)  
**20** Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is  
 named (3)  
**24** Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)  
**25** 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me'  
 (Mark 8:34) (4)  
**26** Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians  
 to cruel deaths (4)  
**27** See **18** Across

# THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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|   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 1 | 6 |
|   | 6 |   |   |   |   |   | 7 |
| 5 |   | 4 |   |   | 1 |   |   |
|   | 9 |   |   | 7 |   |   | 2 |
|   |   |   |   |   | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 6 |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |   |

Answers are on page 27



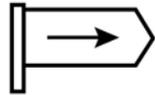
# I AM

I AM  
THE

AND THE

AND THE

Read *John 14:6*



I AM  
THE

Read *John 10:9*



I AM  
THE

Read *John 10:11 and 14*

Seven times in John's Gospel Jesus calls Himself "I AM" - the same name that God calls Himself when He speaks to Moses in Exodus 3:14. Jesus is telling us who He really is.



I AM  
THE

I AM  
THE

OF THE

Read *John 18:12*



I AM  
THE

Read *John 15:1 and 35*

AND THE

Read *John 11:25*



I AM  
THE

OF

Read *John 6:35,51*



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

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search

## NOVEMBER WORDSEARCH

It was 100 years ago this month, on 11th November 1921, that Remembrance poppies were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries to commemorate military personnel who died in war.

Amid the mud, blood and carnage of trench warfare in World War 1, tens of thousands of bright red poppies had grown, marking the graves of the fallen. This led John McCrae, a Canadian army physician who had lost a colleague, to write "In Flanders Fields",

*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.*

Answers are on page 27

This image inspired the adoption of a red poppy as the symbol of all soldiers who had died in conflict. In the UK they are sold by the Royal British Legion to raise funds for current and former members of the British Armed Forces. Around 30 million poppies are sold each year.

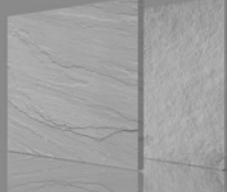
BLOOD  
BRIGHT  
CARNAGE  
COMMEMORATE  
COUNTRIES  
FALLEN  
FIELDS  
FLANDERS  
GRAVES  
MILITARY  
MUD  
PERSONNEL  
POPPIES  
RED  
REMEMBRANCE  
SOLD  
SYMBOL  
THOUSANDS  
TRENCH  
WARFARE



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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
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| 9 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 |
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 8 |

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| Y | P | O | E | R | C | S | T | S | L | D | M | R |
| R | E | M | E | M | B | R | A | N | C | E | O | E |
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## September Baptisms

|      |                             |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 5th  | Enzo Christopher Parks      |
| 5th  | Archie James Wilson         |
| 12th | Ivy & Edie Rowles (twins)   |
| 12th | Charlotte Donelan           |
| 19th | Evie Francis Linda McDonald |
| 19th | Arthur Paul David Rutter    |
| 26th | Grace Elizabeth Dennison    |
| 26th | Freya Smith                 |

## September Funerals

|      |                         |    |
|------|-------------------------|----|
| 1st  | Alred Allen             | 98 |
| 7th  | June Garratley          | 87 |
| 8th  | Gillian Rose Bedford    | 63 |
| 9th  | Stuart Leslie Milner    | 81 |
| 13th | Patricia Audrey Pope    | 84 |
| 16th | Norman Frederick Cooper | 84 |
| 27th | Robin Price             | 72 |



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## READERS

**Kate Day**

email: kate\_day@me.com

Tel: 0121 537 9672

**Gill Gough**

email: g.gough@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0121 603 2636

**Sarah Penfold**

email: sarahpenfold@blueyonder.co.uk

Tel: 0121 681 1525

**Denise Smith**

email: deesmith1181@hotmail.com

Tel: 01564 822606

## CHURCH WARDENS

**Parish Wardens**

Margaret Foreshew Tel: 0121 603 9833

email: mhforeshew@gmail.com

Gill Hanton Tel: 0121 733 2347

email: gill.hanton@btinternet.com

**Deputy Wardens - St James the Great Church**

Kate Crocker

Linda Pitt

Tel: 0121 258 2956

Tel: 0121 744 6777

**Deputy Warden - Christ the King Church**

Denise Smith

Tel: 01564 822606

**Deputy Warden - St John the Divine Church**

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**FOR ANY ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE PLEASE CONTACT  
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**Gill Hanton, 200 Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath B90 1PF**

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