







SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE

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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

A NEW SERVICE PATTERN

It's hard to plan for the future at the moment when so much is uncertain but following the Lent sermons and discussions, we felt it important to look at the service pattern across the parish. Following a meeting with Readers, Wardens and Deputy Wardens we proposed to the PCC a revised service pattern which is what we will follow as and when we re-open the church buildings.

This pattern is outlined below -

SUNDAYS

Church	Time	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
St James	8am	1	НС	1	HC	
	10.30am	НС	HC MW HC MV		MW	HC
	12.30pm	Possible baptisms				
St Johns	9am	НС	MW	HC	MW	
	3.30pm	Reflective				Forest
	/ 6pm	Worship				Church
CTK	10.30am	MW	HC	MW	HC	

(HC is Holy Communion; MW is some form of non-eucharistic worship)

MIDWEEK

10.30am Holy Communion at St James Church on Thursday

The logic behind this plan is:

- 1. A move of the service time at St James Church to 10.30am to give time for a minister to take a 9am service at St John's Church and then the 10.30am at St James Church. It will also enable a 9am service at St James Church (perhaps a service aimed at young families) sometime in the future should the need arise.
- 2. There will be two communion services in the parish each Sunday (apart from the fifth Sunday). One will be early morning (8 or 9 o'clock) and one mid-morning at 10.30am.
- 3. There will be a Parish Service on each fifth Sunday
- 4. Reflective worship to remain as now, but with an earlier start time of 3.30pm in winter and 6pm in summer

A NEW SERVICE PATTERN continued

- 5. A new service of Forest Church (essentially a form of outdoor worship) in St John's garden (or occasionally elsewhere) on the fifth Sunday afternoon / evening.
- 6. The midweek communion to continue in its established slot on Thursday mornings at St James Church
- 7. The healing service will be incorporated within morning services on an occasional basis at each church
- 8. This proposal takes into account the ministry resources likely to be available in the foreseeable future
- 9. This to be reviewed early in 2022 when we have had good opportunity for all three churches to worship in this pattern

The re-opening of church buildings is proposed as from Sunday 2nd May – initially with St James but looking in time to open St John's and Christ the King when it is safe, and we are able to do so.

Hence the first services at St James Church will be:

Sunday 2nd May 10.30am Communion

Thursday 6th May 10.30am Communion

Sunday 9th May 8am Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

Thursday 13th May 10.30am Communion (Ascension Day)

Reflective Worship will recommence in the garden at St John's Church at 6pm on Sunday 2nd May.

For the time being places will be limited to ensure compliance with social distancing and bookings will be through the Parish Office. As soon as we are able, we will "live stream" the 10.30am service onto YouTube and the phone line direct from the church building – until then we will continue with pre-recorded worship in addition to the worship in the buildings.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU LOVELY LADIES!

I cannot thank enough all the wonderful ladies in the parish who helped in providing cakes to some of the residential homes in our community on Maundy Thursday. From those that provided funds, through to organising, baking, collecting, packing and finally delivering, you were all fantastic.

It was great to give a little something back to our community and to also heighten awareness of our churches and God's love. Beware though, I intend to do some more projects and will be looking for help again!

Anyone else out there that might be interested in helping please do let me know. Don't think you need specific skills, there will always be something you can help with and it's a great way of getting to know people better. And, if you want to, even learn new skills.

Men are very welcome too. My husband and son do not come to church, but they both got involved and even made a cake each (first time ever!)

Jan Dalton



The story also featured in the Solihull Observer -

https://solihullobserver.co.uk/news/spreading-the-love-shirley-parish-churchesget-baking-for-easter/



I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all those who baked the lovely cakes for the care homes at Easter, and those who took it upon themselves to do the organising of it all.

My wife enjoyed her ginger and banana cake, and residents and staff were very appreciative of the other cakes you provided.

So, a big thank you.

Richard Hidson



Many thanks to all the children who did the lovely flower pictures for my Mothering Sunday card. It was a great blessing and the art work was very good.

Barbara T



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JUNE 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY
Wednesday 12th May

LITTLE NICK - PARISH COURIER

Over the last year I had noticed a pattern emerging.

On Tuesday Margaret would bring a pile of envelopes to our house. On Wednesday Sarah would disappear with the envelopes, sometimes for a long time, sometimes less so. I asked Sarah what she does on a Wednesday morning. She explained that she, and other people, deliver envelopes with the sermon, pew slip and other church information in to people who don't have the Internet. Sometimes there are other things as well and she suggested that I went with her to find out.

We began by packing a bag because it quickly became obvious that this was not simply about envelopes. In went three Easter eggs, a tube of Rolos, a strange cardboard thing, the envelopes and me. I offered to walk but Sarah thought my legs would get tired and anyway she walks faster than I do.

I started off with my head out of the bag so I know that at the first four houses we put things through the doors. 'Do you check you get the right one', I asked. 'Of course' she grumped. I think asking was probably a mistake.



At the next house we rang the bell and I helped Sarah to hand over some of the chocolate, which was Bingo prizes from the day before. Pat took a photo of me helping Sarah. Then we were off again with more envelopes. 'There is an extra job today, I have some toiletries to collect and as it is raining, I suggest you get into the bag and do it up properly'. I clambered in.



Luckily by the time we were ringing the bell at the toiletry house it had stopped raining so I hopped out again. We had a chat there so I stretched my legs a bit. It wasn't so comfy in the bag now sitting on top of bottles of shampoo and shower gel.

At the next house Sarah rang the bell again because we had another Easter egg to deliver. I climbed onto the bag to try to reach the letter box, but it was still too high up. We had another chat there before we set off for the last few envelopes.

LITTLE NICK - PARISH COURIER continued

'What now?', I asked when I realised that we had handed over all the things we had brought with us. 'I usually treat myself to a coffee on the way home'. 'That's greedy', I said. 'I'm supporting local business', she retorted and popped into the shop before I could remind her that I don't like coffee. The lady from the shop brought it out to us and I discovered that the weird cardboard thing we brought with us was a cup holder so we didn't spill it on the way.

When we got home, Sarah took the top off my cup and I soaked my whiskers in hot white chocolate – yummeee.

Nicodemus Penfold - Parish Raconteur (and trainee courier)



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CARRY ON LIVING - PART FIVE

So, it happened Denise was poorly and I couldn't do anything to help her, in fact she shouted at me to "stay still as if you fall, we will be in more of a mess"!

So she did the minimum basics and still saw to me, but I still felt useless, but glad to say after a few days she began to pick up and was even telling me off for saying how useless I was, or "you're getting on my nerves now shut up and realise all I needed was your presence".

I did my best to draw some Easter cards although with my failing strength it was even harder to grip a pencil, but I kept going and Dee made it easier by buying some cards and I just drew a little something inside.

We are getting more sleep at nights now with just the odd night up, mind you I am sleeping a lot more during the day too.

We have been talking about what church might look like in the future and with all the thoughts shared on the Lent discussion groups seems everyone really wants to move forward in whatever way we can and hopefully modernise the church and make the buildings more useable for the community.

One thought that struck me was that maybe, once a month, we could have say a Breakfast Club and invite local traders in for a bacon sandwich and a mug of builders tea, not only to learn about what they could offer us in the future in the array of skills that they will bring in with them but it would also offer them the chance to get to know other trades people and the trade they supply. Often, and speaking from my own experience, when say I was fitting a new boiler, I would get asked do I know a kitchen fitter or a roofer etc.

It would be a good way of promoting each other and form community bonds too. It would also show the church in a new light and that God is with us all in our daily lives no matter who we are and even boiler suits are welcome into church.

We had a rude awakening this morning when a bird fell down the chimney and started tap dancing until we could get it out, but unfortunately the shock must of been too much for it, RIP Mr Pigeon.

Nodding off now so love and my prayers.

Graham Smith (Reader)

BECOMING A PEOPLE ROOTED IN PRAYER, AND COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGEMENT, WELCOME AND GROWTH

I met with the Readers, Wardens and Deputy Wardens for the morning of Saturday 10th April over Zoom to talk about what came out of the Lent sermons and discussions relating to what the churches in the parish might be like following the pandemic. We had a wide ranging and fruitful discussion but recognised that there is still a lot to talk about and decide.

I started the morning by reading a poem written by Gerard Kelly entitled "Rob's God". It was written as a tribute to Rob Lacey – an actor and broadcaster who took the Bible onto the streets and published "The Street Bible – The Word on the Street" in an attempt to introduce people to the message of scripture for the first time. He sadly died young from cancer, but his vision of God was of a loving, caring, forgiving, exciting God who wants us to enjoy life in his company.

I want to follow Rob's God; God the goal of my soul's education.

Rob's God is approachable, articulate and artful, a glowing God, of graceful inclination.

Rob's God snowboards cloudscapes and paints daisies on his toes, while watching Chaplin re-runs on his i-Pod. He smiles at cats and children, jumps in puddles with his shoes on, a 'where's-the-fun -in-fundamentalism?' God.

Rob's God doesn't shoot his own wounded, or blame the poor for failing at prosperity. He doesn't beat the broken with bruised reeds from their garden, or tell the sick that healing's their responsibility.

BECOMING A PEOPLE continued

Rob's God is a poet, painting people as his poems; a sculptor shaping symphonies from stone a maker of mosaics curator of collages woven from the wounds and wonders we have known.

A furnace of forgiveness;
Rob's God radiates reunion
pouring oil on every fight
we've ever started.
A living lover
loving laughter
lending light
to the helpless and the harmed and heavy-hearted

Other Gods may claim more crowded churches higher profiles better ratings fuller phone-ins.
But in the contest for commitment in the battle for belief in the war to woo my worship; Rob's God wins.
In the fight for my faith's fervour: in the struggle for my soul; in the race for my respect Rob's God wins.
Absolutely.

And so, with thoughts of this God in mind and how we might worship him and honour him we looked at our churches and, although our buildings are special places and important to our life and mission, when we talk about churches, we are meaning the people – you and me.

BECOMING A PEOPLE continued

We thought about prayer, and how important prayer should be for us. And this is not just praying for things and people – intercessory prayer we might call it – although that is important. It's also about listening to God, spending time with God, sharing our thoughts and concerns with God. We talked about prayer being something that we can all be involved in, but we also reminded ourselves that there are some people from our churches who have a particular calling to pray. We shared the thought that our different personalities mean that we each prefer to pray in different ways and that there is no 'right' way to pray. One reassuring thought was that you can't pray wrong! Elsewhere in this magazine the "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer initiative is mentioned. Maybe we could all consider getting involved.

And talking about prayer led us on the thinking about how prayer helps us grow in our understanding of God and what he wants for us. When we talk about growth we are not only thinking about more people (though that is of course very important). We are also thinking about ourselves — each one of us - growing in our faith or following Jesus more closely if you like. We thought about the need to learn from the Bible, learn from each other and listen to what God is saying to us. And the third aspect of growth is about developing and strengthening our service to our community. Becoming those people who share God's love by the way we live in and support the community.

When we think about welcoming in relation to church, we usually mean welcoming those who attend Sunday worship, perhaps for the first time. This is vital and is the responsibility of all of us, not just the designated "welcomers". But we mustn't forget that we need to be welcoming to each other. One of the things that I have come to see over this past year is that (particularly at St James, much less so at the two smaller churches) many of us don't know each other. I have heard stories of people not knowing the name of the person who has been sitting just behind them in church for years. The first step to being a welcoming community has to be to ensure that we are a real community. Perhaps some ways of getting to know each other better could help. Short interviews in church, a "name amnesty" where it's OK to ask someone their name, opportunities to socialise when we are allowed.

The last thought is that we should be encouragers — and this becomes much easier when we know each other better. Our aim would be to look for the potential in people and to encourage them to do things. It might mean being prepared to let others do things that we have always done, to get rid of the "easier to do it myself" mentality and to pass on real responsibility as well as tasks. We should aspire to be people who always look for the positive and to build people up.

BECOMING A PEOPLE continued

Lots of ideas. Lots of thoughts about how our churches might move forwards. And lots of thinking and praying still to be done.

We are not there yet by any means, but we are on the road and I encourage you to join in as we look to the future and see where God wants to take us.

Reverend Paul Day

WALKING THE PARISH BOUNDARY

Kate and I are again walking around the Parish boundary on Bank Holiday **Monday 3rd May**. It's about fourteen miles altogether and we would value some company (in line with Covid guidelines of course!). We will be praying for the Parish – for the people who live here, study here, work here or simply pass through.

You can meet us at 18 Widney Lane at 9.45am (space to park cars here), but if you don't want to do it all it's still possible to join us at various points and to walk part of the boundary. Our timetable is (roughly):



10am	Corner of Brick Kiln Lane / Widney Lane
10.15am	Corner of Solihull Road / Prospect Lane
11am	Corner of Stratford Road / Sandy Hill Road

11.45am Colebrook Road shops12.15pm Prince of Wales pub

(lunch at St John's Church)

1.45pm Leave St John's Church for St John's "loop"

3pm Leave St John's Church again!
3.15pm Canal Bridge on Haslucks Green Rd

4pm Corner of Tanworth Lane and Blackford Road / Dog Kennel Lane

5pm Finish!

If you would like to join us, please get in touch!

EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Oh well Easter has come and gone, all the chocolate Easter eggs have been eaten, and we are all looking forward to getting back with our families, and booking those long forgotten holidays, do we remember those days I ask myself? I think for me it will being able to meet up with my friends for coffee and especially giving them a big hug.

Things will never be the same again and we must all look forward to a new beginning within our church community.

A group of people met over Zoom to discuss the way forward for the Parish. It proved to be a positive meeting and, although we cannot agree on everything, we did agree that we could not go back to what we were before the lockdowns.

Also, we must remember that Paul Day is currently the only Priest in this Parish and we must not overload him. Our retired priests have been an enormous help to him in the past and we are grateful for their input, but even retired priests have to say no sometimes. Our readers have come into their own as Paul is calling on them more and more to help out.

Let us go forward and embrace the future of our Parish together with God's unfailing love.

Margaret Foreshew



Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we STOP this climate crisis.

Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water.

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Find out more at https://www.christianaid.org.uk/

THY KINGDOM COME 2021



Forty days after Jesus' resurrection he told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were "clothed with power from on high", and then ascended into heaven. Ten days later, the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, and the disciples were empowered to spread the good news of Jesus in the city, in the surrounding area, and then across the known world. We're still part of that today.

But have you ever wondered what Jesus' followers did during those ten days of waiting?

The Bible tells us that they prayed.

And so those ten days have traditionally been set aside for prayers that we might grow in our own faith, belief and trust in Jesus; and that others might also come to know and love him. In recent years this tradition has been revived under the banner of "Thy Kingdom Come."

This year we will once again be having special things to do during this period, which runs from **13th – 23rd May**.

We'll be thinking about and offering support to develop our own prayers further; and we'll be praying especially for three groups of people -

- Those who have found it really hard to keep in touch with God during the pandemic
- Those who have begun to think more about God during the pandemic
- For (up to) 5 people we know, that whatever they currently believe, they might move closer to God

More information will be following over the next few weeks. Please keep an eye on the pewslip, website, Facebook or Twitter feeds to see what's happening.

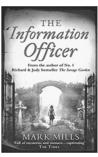
And please join in. Remember - you can't pray wrong!

Kate Day

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

A brief summary of responses to The Information Officer by Mark Mills

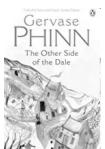
Set on the besieged island of Malta in the summer of 1942, the novel centres around an Information Officer, Max Chadwick, whose job it is to try and maintain the islanders' morale in the face of constant bombardments, food shortages and the repeated failure of the British Government to fulfill their promises of help. His job is made that much more complicated when an unnamed killer begins to murder young Maltese women. Everything points to the killer being a British Officer.



It's what might be described as a 'slow-burn' story. As a result, and quite unusually, Book Club members are split on whether or not they enjoyed the novel. The structure, with the actual killer appearing as first-person narrator in occasional chapters, puzzled many of us until late in the book. Some were intrigued by the plot whilst others struggled to keep going — until quite late on in the story. The main character's various relationships with women also confused some of our readers and distracted some of us from the main story: 'too many strands in play, so that even the impact of the murders seemed to get lost' said one of our readers and '... sometimes both the geography and the blokey behaviour seemed to overrun the plot.' Expecting a crime thriller, some of us were disappointed; some said, 'not another book a set in World War Two', others clearly loved the time and the place.

Whatever the various reservations, most of the Book Club did in fact enjoy the novel's setting in Malta (many have fond memories of holidays there) and I think it is fair to say that the climax of the novel, with the discovery of the murderer's identity, gripped everyone. (One of the group was so taken with the intricacies of the plot, she read it twice!)

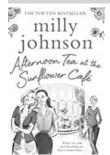
All this is exactly why being a member of the Parish Book Club is such a delight. It's made of a group of individuals with minds of their own! Added to this, we're beginning



to find that the recommended books are being whizzed through at a rate of knots. Usually a month or a little more is set aside for each read, but I am now receiving calls long before the deadline asking what the next book is! Consequently, here are the next two books:

For the rest of April into early May: *The Other Side of the Dale* by Gervais Phinn – think of All Creatures Great and Small only with children and schools, instead of animals and farms – and you'll get the idea. Funny, perceptive and very readable.

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB continued



For May into early June: Afternoon Tea at the Sunflower Café by Milly Johnson. Amazed that this novel hasn't been picked up (yet) for a TV serial. Part sit-com, part cliff-hanger. Another must read.

Both of these are easily available online or in supermarkets at very reasonable prices.

Ray Speakman











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HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED

FOOD BANK: thank you for your continued support for the Food Bank where the numbers are still increasing. The ever-continuous shortages are tinned fruit, meat soup, tinned tomatoes and dried milk. But please NO pasta or cereals!

CLOTHING BANK (at Narthex): the request recently was for new pants for girls aged 6/7 and 9/10. Sarah Penfold is happy to receive these.

ADAVU: we watched a television programme recently where a Romanian man was found hiding in some woods – he had been there for five years, terrified of coming out and encountering his traffickers. At first the police officer in charge of the hunt for him (or his body as it was suspected that he had been murdered) felt "great euphoria" at finding him but it shortly turned to "great pity" for this man who had lived in fear for so long. Aren't we fortunate not to live in fear? all day! every day! The man was helped to another part of the country and supported by a charity. Who knows, he may even have been one of the men whom we have helped? maybe not, but it certainly moved us to keep helping Adavu.

During Lockdown, Adavu has supported:

- three mums with their new-born babies, and another Little One on the way all doing well.
- lots of survivors starting remote and blended learning at colleges
- four survivors settling in their permanent homes
- many of the women gaining confidence and friendship in employability workshops run by another charity.

Over 100 supportive phone calls to Adavu clients have been made in the past four months by Liisa and her team.

Thank you for your support. The frequent donations of basic toiletries (which Sarah Penfold is happy to receive and pass on to me) are greatly appreciated by the men and women in Adavu's care.

Elizabeth Paice

P.S. ADAVU is an Indian dance which starts off with individual slow steps and when more people join in becomes more intricate and beautiful.



PENTECOST - SUNDAY 23rd MAY

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts Chapter 2 verses 1-13). What are we celebrating?

God's Promise:

The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power:

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God's Purpose:

The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives and it's the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the Church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).





BEING BRAVE?

Some time ago I was helping my grandson George into his car seat in the back of my car, when I accidentally banged his head. He started to cry. 'Come on, George, be brave,' I said.

'But I don't want to be brave,' he objected.

I guess we all know that feeling. Sometimes life is hard, and we know we have a need for courage, but somehow, we just don't want to be brave. We would rather give in, surrender to the difficulties, and wallow in self-pity.

The Bible seems to constantly exhort us to be brave, to be strong, to take heart, to be courageous. And life during a pandemic certainly calls for us to make a courageous response. But occasionally we may feel overwhelmed and ready to give in or give up.

Perhaps you are reading this at just such a moment. Maybe this comes as a message to you from God so that you do not lose heart. He knows you, and He sees your situation. And He speaks to encourage you, as He did to the church at Philadelphia: 'I know that you have little strength' (Revelation Chapter 3 verse 8).

He is the compassionate and understanding God who draws alongside us, to give strength to the weary and power to the weak (Isaiah Chapter 40 verse 29). You don't have to do anything, simply turn to Him in your need and ask for help.

You will discover, as the apostle Paul did, that when you are weak, then you are strong. His power will be demonstrated through your weakness. You can do whatever is required of you because He will give you strength.

100 YEARS OF THE BRITISH LEGION

One hundred years ago, on 15th May 1921, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

UNDERGROUND

It's 3.45am - there's a sound
It's water splashing
The radio's still on
Beneath the Derbyshire Dales
an enthusiastic tunneller
describes his lifelong passion

An awed interviewer asks questionscautiously journeys – mentions wellies I drift in and out of the tunnel feeling my way -afraid hating the darkness enduring a desperation

Eventually - I hear a gem
'I've noticed',
the fellow tunneller says:
'That no matter how long
or dark the tunnel is there's always a shaft of light
at the end'.

Reverend Theresa Jones

100 YEARS OF THE BRITISH LEGION continued

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that



same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (1 Corinthians 8:7) (10)
- **7** Coming (John 11:17) (7)
- 8 'All I have is —, and all you have is mine' (John 17:10) (5)
- **10** Smarten (Acts 9:34) (4)
- 11 Hold back (Job 9:13) (8)
- 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- **15** At ague (anag.) (6)
- **17** Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
- **18** So be it (Galatians 6:18) (4)
- 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. (5)
- 22 Empowers (Philippians 3:21) (7)
- 23 Imposing (1 Samuel 9:2) (10)

Down

- 1 Healed (Luke 7:21) (5)
- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- **3** Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive (6)
- 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (Exodus 2:12) (8)
- 5 Bravery (Acts 4:13) (7)
- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (Acts 16:26) (10)
- 9 Transgression (Psalm 36:1) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
- **16** 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the -' (Genesis 1:2) (6)
- **19** Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. (5)
- **20** Cab (4)



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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

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Answers are on page 27

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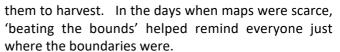
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WORDSEARCH - ROGATION SUNDAY

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. This is when many parishes still 'beat the bounds'. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land. The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake and storm. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring



Answers are on page 27

ASKING BEAT BLESSING BOUNDARIES BOUNDS CORNFIELDS CROPS **CROSS EARTHQUAKE HARVEST** LAND MAPS MAY **PRAYER PROCESSED ROGATION ROMANS SFFD SPRING STORM**

SUNDAY

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



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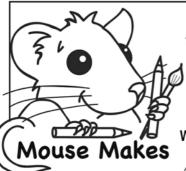


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On the day of PENTECOST the disciples were gathered together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them? Acts 2:4



How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

MPWF **HPPEOFTT** Palatians 5:22

What is the work of the

Holy Spirit? What does He do?

Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC ES

Change each letter to the

letter before it in the

alphabet and see what

the Holy Spirit

produces in us:

KPZIVNJMJUZ

TFMG DPOUSPM

GBJUIGVMOFTT LJOEOFTT

QBUJFODF

QFBDF

∖The Holy Spirit VSEIL

with us and in us.

Re arrange the scrambled

letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit helps us to

WKNO we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit HCTSEEA us about God.

The Holy Spirit KPESSA God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit PHLSE us to tell others about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit helps us when we

AYPR

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6

Which countries had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was their reaction? Acts 2:12-13



Who explained what was happening? What did he say? Acts 2:14-36

How many people were baptised that day? Acts 2:41



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> GU_DES _**^**ENEWS CONV_CTS

SANC_IFIES





PARISH FUNERALS - MARCH 2021

10th	Diane Anderson	86
16th	Ella Ebbutt	100
18th	Stanley Goodwin	94
22nd	Reginald Dickinson	93
23rd	Margaret Mary Cowles	86



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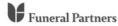
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