

December
2019

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

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

*We meet for half an hour at 8.30am every Saturday morning to pray for the
Parish - all are welcome to join us -
please see the diary and pewslips for the venues*

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CONFIRMATION SERVICE

On Friday 1st November two members of the parish – Lyle Short and Stephen Neale - were confirmed at St Nicolas Church, Kings Norton. They have each written a few lines about what led them to be confirmed.

Lyle Short

My faith in God has always been strong. Talking and praying was a daily routine in private, especially at times of distress.

Meeting Reverend Paul Day following the death of my husband was really the start of the journey leading to my confirmation. Reverend Paul Day came to my home to discuss the funeral service and later to find out how I was coping with my bereavement and to ask if I would be interested in attending a Ploughman's Lunch at Church House.

Having accepted this invitation, this led to Tuesday afternoon tea every other week, and Wednesday evenings at St John's for the 'Start' and 'Moving On' courses. These courses have helped me to have a better understanding of the Bible, although I realise I have a lot more to learn.

I started thinking about being confirmed when my youngest grandson celebrated his confirmation earlier this year. I thought it was about time I gave something back to God in return for always being there when I needed strength and guidance. Attending church again has given me a reason for getting up in the morning.

On 1st November some were baptised before we were confirmed by Bishop David who made it a joyous occasion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Janet, my sponsor, and all those who supported me when making this commitment.



CONFIRMATION SERVICE continued

Stephen Neale

As a child I attended church regularly up until the age of eleven, then like most boys my weekends were taken up with football and other sports. Therefore, sadly my faith journey was put on hold.

Since I have been attending St James Church everyone has been so kind and supportive, which has inspired me to restart my journey.

I started by attending the 'Start' and 'Moving On' courses run by Paul and Kate. Both courses were very good and helped me realise restarting my journey and being confirmed was the right path to take.

On the evening of my Confirmation I felt a calmness come over me and I am more happy and content.

Thank you all for your support.

Start!
Moving On!

*These courses will be run again in the
New Year -
watch out for details*

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THE BIBLE RECIPE

On a very wet Saturday early in November a group of us met at St John's Church with Paul and Kate Day in order to have our understanding of the Bible gently expanded. We were all from the Shirley Parish and each of the three churches was represented.

All of us know isolated stories from the Old, and particularly, the New Testament, but we all had to admit that our Old Testament knowledge is at best patchy and, although we are aware that elements in the Old Testament are echoed in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we do not really know how all these various parts of the Bible knit together.

What we began to see on this Saturday morning was that the Old and New Testaments are intricate and linked parts of the same story. A story about God's relationship with us, as well as about the lives of all those people whose stories we meet in the Bible. We started to recognise something most of us had not really encountered before – that there are threads of meaning that weave themselves through almost all the stories. The Bible echoes across its different parts and across time.

We looked at how, like the shelves in a library, the books of the Bible might fall into different groups. In broad terms, the Old Testament explores church law, history, poetry, major and minor prophets, and the New Testament gives us the four gospels, church history, letters and ends with prophecy.

We traced a timeline from the Creation to Revelations and with this began to understand, firstly, the context in which the Bible stories were written but perhaps as much as that, we were secondly helped to catch hold of the truths which link the various parts of the Bible to each other – to find the timeless meanings that begin to emerge when we look at all the books of the Bible together.

It was a stimulating, a revealing and an extremely enjoyable beginning to the growth of our understanding.



Perhaps you might enjoy, as we did, a fresh encounter with the Bible through this game? All you have to do is look up each of the following references and identify the ingredients which might add up to making a 'Bible cake':

THE BIBLE RECIPE continued

3/4 lb	1 Kings Chapter 4 Verse 22	
8 ozs	Judges Chapter 5 Verse 25	
6 ozs	Jeremiah Chapter 6 Verse 20	
8 ozs	1 Samuel Chapter 30 Verse 12	
6 ozs	Nahum Chapter 3 Verse 12	
2 ozs	Numbers Chapter 17 Verse 8	
2 tbspn	1 Samuel Chapter 14 Verse 25	
1/2 tspn	2 Chronicles Chapter 9 Verse 9	
1 cup	Judges Chapter 4 Verse 19	
3	Luke Chapter 11 Verse 12	
1 pinch	Genesis Chapter 19 Verse 26	

And so all the ingredients of the Bible combine to make a taste that is both of, and beyond, this world.

Ray Speakman

NEWS FROM REVEREND PAUL

As many of you may know, Peter Law-Jones has been signed off work for a further two months until early January. Please continue to pray for him and for Kate during this time.

Inevitably this means that we are a little stretched as far as leading worship goes. Christmas services have been planned and the details are elsewhere in this magazine. However, there have been a couple of enforced changes from last year as we simply cannot do everything. One thing we plan to do during Peter's absence is to hold the Guild of St Raphael healing service at 9.45am on the first Tuesday each month as part of our usual Eucharist rather than on the Wednesday evening.

The ministry team ask for your understanding as we try to cover things during Peter's absence. I would like to thank the team again for all the extra work and effort they are putting in at the moment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the coming year as we look forward to seeing God at work in what we do in and around the Parish.



MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 4th December** – Advent Carol Service – 2.30pm in St. James Church. **Please note the change of time.**

As you will see from your new programme for 2020 there will be no meetings in January and our next meeting will be the A.G.M on Wednesday 5th February – 2pm in Church House.



Wave of Prayer - 15th to 17th January 2020 – more information will be in the pew slip.

Mothers' Union members subscriptions are now due, payment would be appreciated by the 22nd January and returned in the envelope attached to your Link magazine direct to the Treasurer, Susan Knight or via the Parish Office or a Committee Member.

If anyone requires a lift to any of the meetings, please contact a member of the committee:

Linda Pitt - 0121 744 677

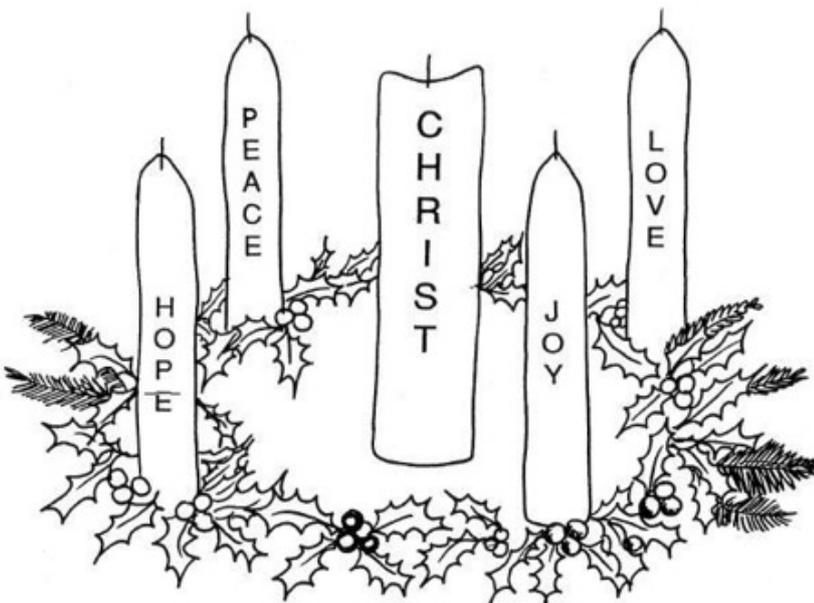
Liz Yates - 0121 744 6416

Susan Knight - 0121 744 6298

We extend a warm welcome to visitors to any of our meetings.

Our very best wishes to you as we anticipate Christ's birth in this season of Advent.

Susan Knight



FOOD BANK NEWS

After the generous gifts received from Harvest collections, we have been busy dating and sorting, as well as making up food parcels. New shelving has been installed in the warehouse, increasing the space available for storage and making it easier to ensure items are used in date order.

We are delighted to say that our requests for particular items are so often met with donations of those items. All donations are always welcome, but it is surprising how some foodstuffs seem to be in plentiful supply and then just dry up, and specific requests really do mirror specific needs at any given time.

With the winter and the bad weather drawing on we are hoping that the Christmas donations are generous, as if you are hungry you also feel the cold more. Basic foodstuffs are always needed, in particular dried milk, tinned fruit and vegetables, instant mashed potato, rice pudding, steamed puddings, crispbreads and cooking oil. Small sizes of cereal and sugar are helpful, as the large packets are too much for one or two people and we can double up if necessary, also instant custard mix, which does not require milk and is so much easier to carry than a tin. It is somewhat of a quandary for donors at this time of year whether to give staples such as those listed, or whether to give something more seasonal; we always get a good supply of mince pies but these and Christmas puddings need to be chosen with care as many contain alcohol and nuts, which make them unsuitable for many potential recipients. However, it is lovely to have sweets or chocolates, crisps and nibbles to put in the parcels, particularly for families, in addition to the basics that are always included.

The Christmas advertisements have started on television and in the supermarkets, and most seem to suggest that what will make your Christmas the best ever is vast quantities of food and drink. You have to feel sorry for the Cratchits in 'A Christmas Carol' – the Christmas dinner Scrooge provided for them did not include canapés, Prosecco, smoked salmon starters, a choice of puddings and enough chocolates to give Tiny Tim and his siblings a serious stomach ache! However, for anyone struggling to feed themselves and their families, this emphasis on overindulgence must make their situation even more difficult. We keep asking you for your support and your response is always generous – we are so grateful for all your donations, but not as grateful as the recipients.

Margaret Barber

THE ADAVU CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Adavu Party WILL happen ... with a little help from our friends.

As I write, parishioners are buying gifts for clients of the Food Bank and the Adavu Trust. These are very practical items, socks, underwear, nightwear, toiletries, snacks ... and some festive treats for the children.

The Christmas party is a highlight in the Adavu year. (If anyone has not heard of this Charity, it offers support to victims of modern slavery and is an initiative of the Methodist Church.) The party provides families with a cooked meal, games and Christmas gifts and is a wonderful opportunity for clients, who are supported individually by project workers, to get together and make friends.

Some weeks ago, Elizabeth Paice learned that funding for the venue and hot meal was not available this year. Elizabeth and her friends normally donate the dessert in the form of cakes (with some to take home) but there was still a shortfall of £450 compared to the costs of last year's party, which the hard-pressed charity could not fund.



Never daunted, Elizabeth secured some donations and negotiated a reduction in costs until only £125 remained to be found. This has been donated by the Shirley Lions and we are very grateful for their help in saving the day. Truly a community effort!

So now, on 19th December, there will be gifts from parishioners, party fun and a festive meal in a warm, welcoming setting. Happy Christmas!

Kate Crocker

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ECO CHURCH, ECO CHRISTIANS

Our three congregations have each looked at the Eco-Church baseline questionnaire with its five sections, worship, buildings, land, community engagement and individual lifestyle. We are ready to start the official scheme at bronze level, which confirms my long-held view that Shirley Parish is already a thoughtful, caring community.

We score highly in regard to worship and teaching, suggesting that we recognise the issues and care about them, but we do have a way to go to put our ideals into practice.

The first four areas for reflection and action are for our collective (Eco-Church) effort. The lifestyle section invites us to consider what we can do as individuals to cherish and protect our environment.

There are many reasons for trying to engage with this.

- As Christians, we believe that our world is the gift of a loving Creator, ours to enjoy and protect - but as stewards, not owners.
- Even without such convictions, we are all increasingly aware of the fragility of the environment and that there is no Planet B!
- All around us we find beauty and diversity in landscape, sky, sea, weather, seasons, plant and animal life. These sustain us but also give us joy and deserve our protection.
- We all have young people we care about, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, godchildren. Protecting their future is our solemn duty.

It is easy to be daunted by the scale of the problem and feel that only the powerful can make a difference, but individual choices and lifestyles are a vital part of any solution.

Many in our church family are from a generation which hates waste so I would think there is already a spirit of thrift in our personal use of energy, food and goods. Can we go a step further and try to follow the LOAF principle when buying our food (Locally sourced, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade)?

The Eco-Church website links to an online tool to measure individual carbon footprints - <http://Footprintr.me>

... continued over the page

ECO CHURCH, ECO CHRISTIANS continued

This site lets you calculate the effects of air travel, other transport, home energy consumption and diet. The shock to me was that as a regular, moderate meat-eater the impact on CO2 output of my food choices was more than my car and train use. It is definitely time for me to re-think menus a bit! The point of the exercise is to find ways of reducing your carbon footprint - or even offsetting it by donating to charities which protect the environment.

I'm on a steep learning curve. If anyone wants to think about this with me, we could get together a small focus group and look at how we might move from bronze to gold ... or even beyond!

Kate Crocker

SOME TIPS FOR A MORE ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS

- Source a sustainable tree ... then dispose of it responsibly
- Choose decorations that will last a lifetime
- Opt for eco-friendly and Fairtrade gifts
- Think twice about gift wrapping
- Plan your Christmas dinner carefully to reduce waste
- Reduce meat and source ingredients consciously
- Take reusable bags Christmas shopping
- Opt for soy candles
- Consider your Christmas card list
- Avoid disposable cutlery, crockery and cups
- Replace your Advent Calendar with a reusable option
- Make sure your Christmas lights are LEDs
- Have a go at making a Christmas wreath
- Opt for organic
- Choose gifts that are designed to last

More information can be found at

<https://www.realhomes.com/advice/10-tips-for-an-eco-friendly-christmas>

<https://www.greenpeople.co.uk/beauty-hub/blog/top-tips-eco-friendly-christmas>

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/lifestyle/21-ecofriendly-christmas-tips>

'FOLLOW THE STAR' 2019



'Follow the Star' returns for 2019 with twelve brand-new reflections for the Christmas period. Each day includes a reflection, a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and a challenge to reflect or act differently.

Wherever you are on your own journey, 'Follow the Star' will help you see your life afresh through the light of the Christmas star, a sign of God's hope and promises.

A booklet will be supported by additional free digital materials, including suggested activities for families based on each day's theme.

Sign up for daily emails at <https://www.churchofengland.org/followthestar> or download the App



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE

We usually hold a memorial service in November each year to which we invite relatives of those we have taken funerals for. It gives a chance for them, and for anyone who has been bereaved, to remember their loved ones. This year the service is being held on **Thursday 5th December at 7pm** at St James Church and it is being organised in conjunction with Thomas Bragg & Sons Funeral Directors.

The service will follow the pattern of previous years, with names being read out and candles being lit in memory of those we have lost. Recognising that Christmas, and the build up to Christmas, can be particularly difficult, the music will have a Christmas flavour, and there will be the opportunity to talk over light refreshments afterwards.

We hope that the service will help people in their grieving process.

Reverend Paul Day



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'NAME THE LAMB' COMPETITION



From December 3rd until our Christmas Tree Festival a number of shops on Stratford Road will have lambs in their windows.

Each lamb has a name – and the winner of the competition will be chosen from the children who have correctly found all the names.

The winner will be announced at the Carol Service that will bring the festival to a close at 5pm on Sunday December 15th at St James Church.



St John's Church
Tilehouse Lane
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Wednesday
11th December





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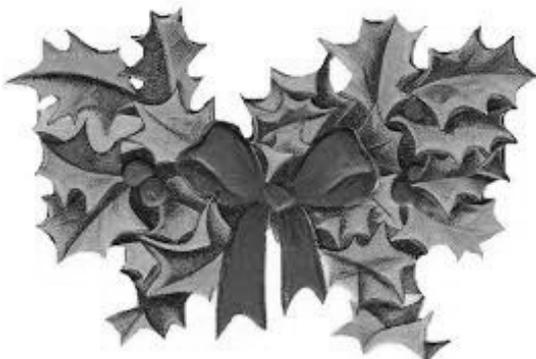
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Saturday 14th December

10am - 2pm

in Church House



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Come and see the beautiful trees
at St James Church, each
decorated by a group from within
our local community ~ there will
also be the opportunity to vote for
the best tree

The charities that we will be supporting are the multi-faith chaplaincy at

and



Solihull Action
through Advocacy

The church will be open -

11am – 5pm on Thursday 12th December

11am – 8pm on Friday 13th December

10am – 5pm on Saturday 14th December

1pm – 5pm on Sunday 15th December



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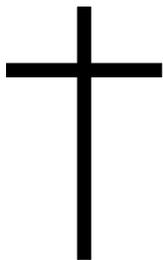
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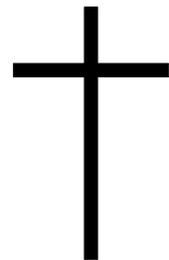
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OUR PARISH DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2019

1st ADVENT SUNDAY

7pm: Reflective Advent Carol Service at St John's Church

2nd 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion

11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion

3rd 9.45am: Eucharist and Guild of St Raphael at St James Church

2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House

7.30pm: PCC Meeting at St John's Church

4th 2.30pm: Mothers' Union Advent Carol Service at St James Church

5th 7pm: Christmas Memorial Service at St James Church

7th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 18 Widney Lane

8th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11.30am: The Friends of St James Walking Club

10th 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House

11th 10.30am: Coffee & Carols at St John's Church

10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion

12th-15th Christmas Tree Festival at St James Church

14th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church

10am: Craft Fair at Church House

15th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5pm: Family Carol Service at St James Church

17th 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House

7pm: Carol Service with Widney School

21st 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church

10am: Messy Church at Church House

22nd FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am: Eucharist at St James Church

9am: Eucharist at St John's Church

10am: Eucharist at St James Church

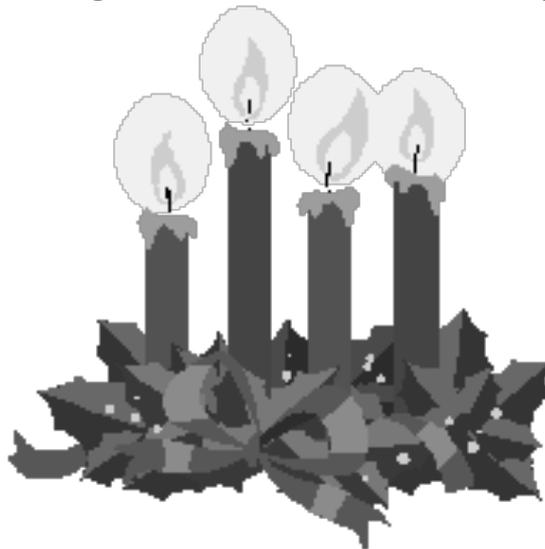
4pm: Carols at Phoenix House

6pm: Carols by Candlelight at St James Church

OUR PARISH DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2019 *continued*

- 24th CHRISTMAS EVE
 4pm: Crib Service at St James Church
 4pm: Crib Service at St John's Church
 7pm: Eucharist at Widney School
 11.30pm: Midnight Eucharist at St James Church
- 25th CHRISTMAS DAY
 8am: Eucharist at St James Church
 10am: Family Communion at St James Church
 10.45am: Communion with Carols at Swallows Meadow
- 26th ST STEPHEN
 27th ST JOHN
 28th THE HOLY INNOCENTS
- 29th **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**
 8am: Eucharist at St James Church
 9am: Parish Service at St John's Church

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



JANUARY 2020 PARISH MAGAZINE

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

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF ADVENT

'Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.' Luke Chapter 2 verse 10

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The word 'Advent' is from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'coming'. Sometimes called 'Little Lent', it's a time to prepare our hearts for the future Second Coming, as well as the birth of Christ.

We celebrate the season with advent calendars, candles and evergreen wreaths - symbolising Christ as Light of the world, bringing new and everlasting life.

Make Room for Jesus: Take some time at the beginning of each day to read your Bible, meditate on Scripture and pray. Focus on giving thanks to God for His gift of Christ to the world and for all He has done for us.



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**3rd and 17th December
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**Saturday 21st December
10am at Church House**

FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN

'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah Chapter 9 verse 6)

Approaching Christmas, we are very aware of the political and economic uncertainties that face us. The prophet Isaiah also lived in such uncertain times, as the Assyrians had just conquered the northern kingdom of Israel (734-732 BC). This fulfilled Isaiah's warnings to the people, who had turned their back on God and His ways. However, Isaiah is able to bring a word of hope, promising a Messiah who would come like a great light: *'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light'* (Isaiah 9:2). These words are fulfilled in the birth of Jesus 700 years later and describe person of Jesus:



Wonderful Counsellor: He will give us the wisdom we need, especially when we have difficult decisions to make at work or home, or in dealing with our finances or future direction.

Mighty God: He will provide the help and strength to face a difficult diagnosis, family crisis or relationships breakdown, as we trust His plan and purpose for our lives.

Everlasting Father: He cares for us as a father cares for His children, so that we can come to Him when we feel alone or we are really struggling, knowing that He hears and will answer our prayers.

Prince of Peace: He has secured peace by His cross and resurrection, and so we can find in Him true acceptance, forgiveness and peace for our lives, relationships and future.

Christmas is the time to celebrate a God who is faithful to all His promises, *'the zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this'* (verse 7)

Reverend Paul Hardingham

THANK YOU FOR THE MAGNIFICENT FABRIC BAGS ...



This photo shows the fabric bags that came in on one Sunday alone.

Thank you all very much for your part in this joint venture to decrease the use of plastic bags via the Food Bank.

Thank you to all at Christ The King, St John's and St James's who have made fantastic bags or given fabric - and to Bernard who continues to cut out the cardboard bases for us.

Some of the great bags in this photo were made by a relation of Liz Blakey's in Kent, so our project is developing legs!

We will continue to supply cut-out kits and instructions at the back of church for this ongoing project or contact Chris Speakman via the Parish Office. Please do whatever you can to help.



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THE SMALL PILGRIM SPACES NETWORK (SPPN)

The side Chapel at St Michael's, Redstone Farm Road, Hall Green, had fallen into disuse. In 2016 the PCC decided that returning the Chapel for use as a prayer space with the busy Community Centre that is The Oak at St Michael's was a priority. Over two years the congregation worked to re-decorate, repair the lighting, re-carpet and more to return this prayer space to use. They then wanted to open the chapel to the local community.

Joining the Small Pilgrim Places Network has helped the congregation open the church more to those who pass by.

A Small Pilgrim Places Network (SPPN) place is a space for keeping silence, encouraging prayer and making a space in a busy world. At St Michael's the SPPN space is used by those who come as a place to stop and be with God. Families stop by after a stay and play group, busy people who work on a Sunday come to sit and pray. Those who just need a few minutes to themselves come as well.

There are SPPN places throughout the country, St Michael's is pleased to be the first in Birmingham. SPPN fulfil their purpose of making space, keeping silence, encouraging solitude, and providing simple focus points in its own way. They have a respected identity of their own, unique and singular - with their own history, character and atmosphere, communicating something of the 'eternal now', while also bringing the past into the present day and pointing towards the future. Some might describe them as holy or sacred. Celts sometimes described them as 'thin' places.

St Michael's Church was opened in June 1971 as the first purpose built Anglican Methodist Church in the UK. The worship space is a hexagonal shape which is reflected across the site. The side Chapel, which is their Small Pilgrim Place is a unique prayer room – used by local people who wish to sit in a quite prayerful space in the midst of a busy outer housing estate.

St Michael's Chapel is open during the day in term time and visitors are welcome.

Website - <https://www.smallpilgrimplaces.org/>

Minister in Charge - Ian Crockford

Telephone - 0121 777 5659 (Parish Office)

Email - minister@stmichealshallgreen.co.uk

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THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the next six months (December to May) are due on 1st December. £13 for six months, £26 for twelve months. Subscriptions may be handed into the Parish Office or sent to Lynda McPherson at 90 Dickens Heath Road, Shirley, B90 1RL. Thank you.

Congratulations to the November winners

£50 - Liz Yates

£25 - Gail Allport

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

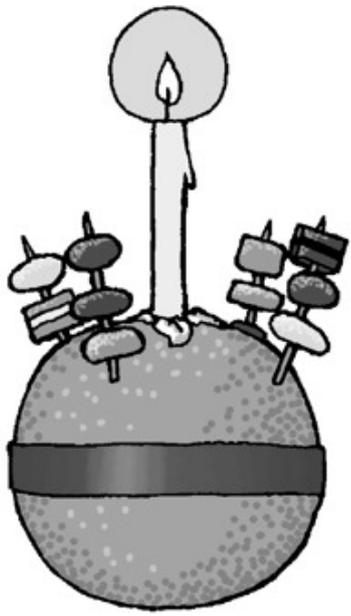
Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

Answers are on page 29

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

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THIS MAGAZINE IN 2020

It has been agreed that, with effect from the February 2020 issue, we will print this magazine using the printer in the Parish Office. This will cost less than the amount that we currently pay to Prontaprint and it will also enable us to be more flexible about the number that are printed each month. The cover won't be as glossy but the content will still be the same.

It has also been agreed that

- As the income from the advertisers should cover the cost of the printing, the magazine will be available **free** to everyone (annual subscriptions will therefore no longer be payable however donations towards the Parish's mission work are encouraged - especially if under the gift aid scheme!). This may also increase the circulation so that more people will find out about all the good things that are happening in the Parish. Maybe you have a friend or neighbour that you could give one to?
- The magazine will be available in the Parish Office and St James Church by the last Saturday of each month (except July), and St John's and Christ the King on the day after. The distribution team can collect as many as they need from any church (they will no longer be bundled up ready for collection)
- The magazine will continue to be available on the Parish website and it can also be emailed to anyone who does not require a paper copy

Please let the Editor know (contact details are on page 32) if you have any queries or comments about these plans.



CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

Christmas is nearly here! More than two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Answers are on page 29

ASHES

BEAUTY

BESTOW

BROKEN

COMFORT

CROWN

DARKNESS

FATHER

FAVOUR

FREEDOM

GOD

HEART

JESUS

LONGING

MESSIAH

MOURN

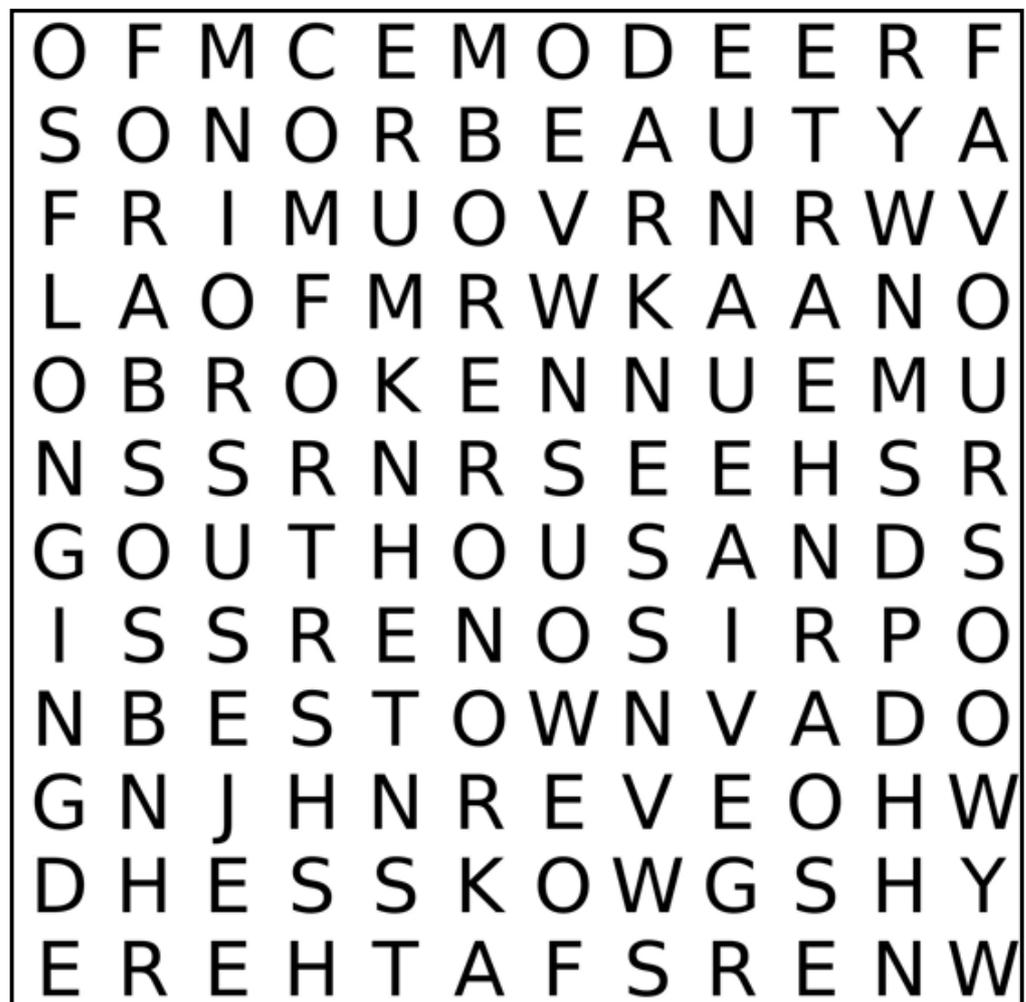
PRISONERS

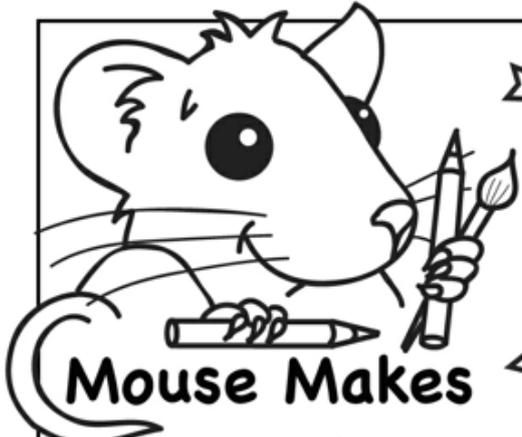
SEEN

SON

THOUSAND

WHOEVER





Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?
Read Luke 2 :1-6

Mouse Makes

Good news!

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?
Read Luke 2:7

What did Mary dress her baby in?
Read Luke 2:6

Glory to God

Why were the shepherds afraid?
Read Luke 2:8

A Saviour is born

What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's baby and why?
Read Matthew 1:21

What good news did the angel tell?
Read Luke 2:10-11

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?
Read Luke 2:16

Who appeared praising God and what did they say?
Read Luke 2:13-14



Colour a star each day until Christmas



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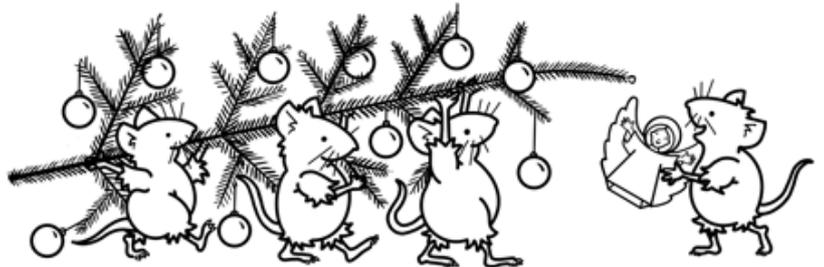
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PUZZLE ANSWERS



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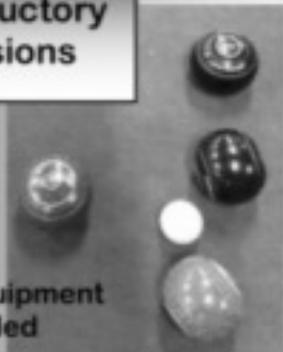
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November 1st Stephen Neale
Lyle Doreen Short

BAPTISMS

November 3rd Lola Clarke
Evie Jayne Clarke
24th Arlo Henry Peters

FUNERAL

November 6th Penelope Catherine Davies 71



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ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN THIS MAGAZINE

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Editor by the 12th of each month please -

Gill Hanton, 200 Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath B90 1PF

Telephone : 0121 733 2347 or 07973 942145

Email : shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com

Advertising Manager

Susan Knight, 138 Tanworth Lane, Shirley : 0121 744 6298

Distribution Manager

Carol Robinson, 1 Beechwood Park Road, Solihull : 0121 711 1796

Whilst every care is taken to ensure that the contents of the magazine are correct, the Communications Committee cannot be responsible for any errors that may occur in the editorial or advertisements, nor for the actions of the advertisers.

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