

Shirley Churches Together

February 2021 Update

We are delighted to say that Rev Paul Day, Vicar of Shirley Parish, has recently agreed to serve as Chair of Shirley Churches Together. Whilst our shared activities are very limited at the present time, the relationships between our churches remains strong and we stand together in bringing the message of Christian hope to the people of Shirley. Recently several of the churches shared each other's profile on Facebook, and the purpose of this flyer is to extend some of this information and other news of the churches to as many people in our congregations as is possible. Exact arrangements for worship are likely to change in the coming weeks, but this information reflects the situation in our congregations at the time of writing.

Shirley Parish



The Parish stretches from the Birmingham border in the north to the Friar's Gate/Costa roundabout in the south, and from Dingle Lane/Danford Lane/Prospect Lane in the east to Truemans Heath and Tidbury Green in the west. It is home to around 34,000 people. We have three churches - Christ the King at Widney Junior School, St James on Stratford Road, and St John at Tidbury Green, each with its own local congregation - but we increasingly act together to share God's love with those who live and work in the parish (and beyond.)

Physical gatherings are currently suspended, but recorded services are streamed on YouTube and are accessible by phone and in paper format. Daily prayers in line with 'Pray for the Nation' are currently being posted on Facebook.

Shirley Methodist Church

As a church community we are still open, keeping in touch with one another through a weekly newsletter, a written service circulated prior to each Sunday and a lot of phone calls. Many of us are also joining in with the fortnightly Methodist District Services online. There is a weekly Zoom worship and chat on Thursday mornings.



Shirley Baptist Church

Our strapline of 'Passion for God, Compassion for People' is worked out practically in four main areas:

Welcome – shown to everyone who connects with us in any way
Love – reflecting the unconditional love that Jesus lavishes on us
Challenge – aligning our lives under the spotlight of His Word
Grow – recognising that we are all on a life-long journey of being transformed into the likeness of Jesus

We are currently presenting our services from the church building as a livestream on YouTube, along with an online kids programme and a youth programme. Links are from the website - www.shirleybaptist.org.uk

Our Lady of the Wayside

We are a community of people who strive to answer the call of Christ by living out our Christian witness in following Him in His Church, in communion with our Archbishop and Pope Francis. At the heart of our community is the celebration of the Mass, the source and summit of our Catholic faith. Our church is currently open, but we also have a YouTube channel where we stream Mass and other services

<https://youtube.com/channel/UC3vdakgmJOATGK2Z8WdBkqg>



Solihull Christian Fellowship



We meet at the Bridge in Shirley, Solihull. Having our own building is such a blessing as we can run a diverse range of groups and clubs for our community in normal circumstances. At the moment our children's and youth groups are all on Zoom, and we have a Wednesday daytime service on Zoom. Our Sunday service is currently live streamed via YouTube.

<https://youtube.com/c/SCFMedia>.

Shirley Community Church

Shirley Community Church is a place where you can find people who love the Lord and want to worship Him in Spirit and Truth. Our congregation is currently meeting both physically in the building and on Zoom, and we also hold a weekly Bible Study and Prayer on Zoom.



St. Patrick, Salter Street



St Patrick's Church is situated in a semi-rural location on the edge of Earlswood and close to Cheswick Green. The church serves a large and growing parish which includes part of Earlswood, Dickens Heath, Cheswick Green, Monkspath and Blyth Valley. As is the case with many other churches, our physical gatherings are currently suspended; however, we are active online on our website and social media pages.

In normal circumstances we offer a range of Sunday Services that provide a breadth of worship styles. We support a range of activities to serve the wider community of the parish including a Pastoral Team providing support for individuals and groups, a lively and well attended Junior Church and a popular and very well supported Messy Church held at the adjacent St Patrick's C E Primary Academy, with which we have a strong and close relationship.

St. Patrick's continues to be in a period of interregnum, and we are grateful for the support of visiting clergy, surrounding churches, and dedicated members of the congregation, which has enabled us to continue serving the community throughout this time.

Grace Church

Not having a building of our own we have learned how to function differently. Zoom has allowed us to increase our connections with each other and our neighbourhood. We are benefitting from regular meetings for fellowship, leadership, bible study and prayer. Women previously outside our church have joined the Knit2gether group. More people also meet together for Sunday worship and are able to participate in Breakout Rooms. Our elderly congregation initially need help with the technology but we are all enjoying the opportunities it provides.

Trinity Monkspath LEP

We are currently meeting every Wednesday at 2.30 pm for prayers and chat. On Sundays we tune into the Methodist and Baptist online services. We keep connected through phone calls and emails.

Earlswood Methodist Church

We meet on zoom every Wednesday at 7 pm for a devotion and chat. We also meet on zoom every Sunday (10 am) except on the first and third Sunday when we join the Birmingham Methodist District service (10.30 am). We reach out to our members through phone calls and emails.

