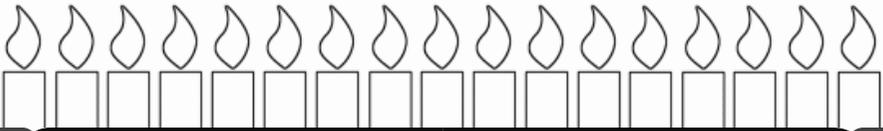


SHIRLEY PARISH

A PRAYER FOR THE 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



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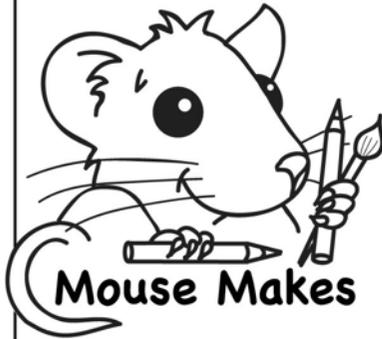
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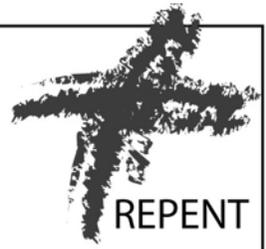


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During Lent read through the Gospel of Luke and each day pray for God to help you become more like Jesus

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



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

Can you find these words in the word search above?

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

THANK YOU



Thank you to all those who supported our 'Tea at the Ritz' event on 9th February. A lovely afternoon - and lots of cake - was had by all.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

I found myself walking around my garden on one very bitterly cold day in February, where everything looked hard and bashed about by the cold and frost and the bird bath was just ice.

I then spied, amongst the dead plants in the pots, signs of life, the bulbs are starting to emerge with their little green shoots, just poking out above the hard soil.

This warmed my heart because it shows that the winter is starting to leave us, and spring is not far away now.

Which got me thinking about my faith and my church life.

Am I like the bulbs in my pots, going unnoticed, because I have yet to be brave enough to see what the world looks like from the safety of the pot?

Have I been scared to poke my head out, because of the cold hard ground above? After all, I am comfy here aren't I?

The other bulbs around about me are starting to push a little bit of their shoots out, how I admire them, but still all I want to do is remain here cosy, warm and snug.

Let them take the pride of place, let everyone who admires them be filled with a sense of warmth, taking in these cheerful flowers on a still cold, but growing warmer, spring day.

Oh, spring has arrived, and I am still in my pot beneath the earth, its warmer above now but am I too late to stick out my little shoot and bloom?

Well NO is the answer to that one, I need to take a look at my church life and see where I can bloom.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING continued

What can I do to help my church? EH! our church, grow in not only numbers, but in faith and commitment to one another and our local community.

I am listening carefully now to the sermon series that is encouraging us to think about church and growth, what it all means for all of us.

I am starting to realise that I have failed in my duty to really talk to others about my faith and just what God does for me on a daily basis.

So, I am making this my starting point to share just a little something each day where God has been with me.

After all he has helped me take a long hard look at myself and my faith just by walking around my garden on that very bitterly cold winters day in February.

So now I am trying to work out how I can take this another step forward by encouraging others to maybe try a Lent course, or just by sitting down and reading a short passage from the bible and asking me about it, I don't pretend to have all the answers but it's a reminder to me that I too was once a seeker, trying to find this God everyone was talking about.

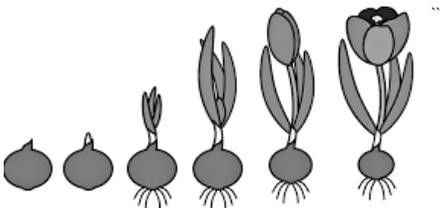
I have had to take a real good look at myself too, am I friendly and approachable?

Am I too comfy in my faith so that I expect everyone else to just get it?

Well I am continuing to listen to the sermon series, and I hope and pray they will continue to help me see just what it is God wants me to do next.

Just a reminder of the Quingo evening on March 9th, complete with supper and fellowship. Take your pew slips home as they are full of what and where all sorts of things are happening, e.g. Ploughman's Lunches, Tuesday Cafe and Lent Groups to name but a few.

So, I share with you today that God helped me write this article as my mind was a complete blank.



Love and prayers

Denise Smith

'GOING FOR GROWTH'

Continuing on from the 'Growing Church' article in the February magazine our clergy and readers are preaching a series of sermons which are helping us to look at the issues and see how we can address them.

As well as listening to the sermons in church you can download them from our website - <https://shirleyparishb90.wixsite.com/live/download-a-sermon>

On **Sunday 3rd March** – the subject is 'Being the church in the week – looking outwards' and it will cover the things that we do as church; the areas of the community we are involved with. How we talk to people about what we believe. Key verse – Matthew 28:19

This year's **Lent Groups** will be taking a further look at the subjects covered in the series. These groups will give us the opportunity to share our thoughts and ideas about how we might move forward.

The groups will each be following the same material, so you don't have to go to the same group every week – it's fine to move around if it's more convenient.

Lent Groups will meet on

Mondays at St John's Church – at 1.45pm following a Lent Lunch at 12.30pm

Wednesdays at Church House –
at 2pm

Wednesdays at 18 Widney Lane –
at 7.30pm

LENT  2019

The sermons during Lent will cover the same themes as the Lent Groups -

10th March – Our focus and plan

17th March – Our culture

24th March – Our calling and journeys

31st March – Mothering Sunday

7th April – Our worship

'GOING FOR GROWTH' - LENT GROUPS

Week commencing 10th March – Focus and Plan

How growth is a sign of life in nature; looking at aspects of growth (numerical, spiritual and service); looking forward three years and what do we see; seeing the importance of prayer, presence, proclamation and persuasion – and planning!

Key verse – Matthew 13:32

Week commencing 17th March – Our culture

How we can develop a community of invitation and welcome.

Looking at things like: How would church seem to someone who has never been before? Would they come back? Do we make them feel welcome? Remembering of course that it's what they think that matters, not what we think!

Key verse – Matthew 25:40

Week commencing 24th March – Our calling

How can we tell our story, and help other people as they seek for faith. Looking at what do we think is good about being a Christian; what we understand by evangelism; how we can pray for specific people and how we can talk about how our story meets God's story.

Key verse – Luke 19:10

Week commencing 31st March – Journeys to faith and in faith

How we can grow deeper in our relationship with God. Looking at our journeys with God; looking at the progression from being someone who is searching, to some who follows Jesus, to someone who serves him and then to someone who has the confidence to tell others. Thinking about the stepping stones to faith.

Key verse – Philippians 3:12

Week commencing 7th April - Our worship

How we can ensure that our worship helps the church to grow in all senses. Looking at how our worship can help us on our journeys; thinking about how friendly it would be to people who are not used to church. Does our worship lift us?

Key verse – John 4:24

We do hope that you will be able to join in - all are welcome and we'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

PRAYING FOR GROWTH

Everything we do needs to be rooted in prayer.

So please find a time to pray each day, maybe over a cup of coffee or tea.

Use your own words, or those below – whichever you prefer ...



Monday

Loving God, thank you for the Good News that, no matter who we are, we are all important to you, and that you love each one of us.

Thank you that you want every person who lives, visits, works or worships in Shirley Parish to know you better.

Thank you that you ask us, your church, to help in offering that invitation to everyone.

We pray today for all the activities that are taking place in Shirley Parish this week, especially ... *(please pray for activities listed in the pewslip e.g. Tuesday Café, JimmyTots, St John's Coffee morning, Messy Church, and/or other "special events")*

May your kingdom come, your will be done. Amen

Tuesday

Loving God, thank you for the many ways in which the churches in Shirley Parish already have links with the people who live, work, visit or study in this area.

We pray that each of these activities may continue to meet people's needs for friendship and care, and may increasingly offer opportunities for your love to be shared with those who come.

Please help me to be aware of people who I could invite to come to worship, or to other activities, and please help me to recognise the opportunities to do so.

May your kingdom come, your will be done. Amen

Wednesday

Creator God, thank you that you made me to know and love you;

Jesus, Redeemer, thank you that you gave yourself to bring me back to you;

Holy Spirit, thank you that you inspire me, challenge me, and encourage me to go deeper into you;

Blessed Trinity, open my eyes and ears to be aware of you, and fill my heart with longing for more.

May your kingdom come, your will be done. Amen

PRAYING FOR GROWTH *continued*

Thursday

Lord Jesus Christ, whose arms were opened wide upon the cross to welcome all, I pray that our church community may be open and welcoming to everyone. Please help us to welcome those who are different from us, as well as those with whom we have things in common;
 Please help us to welcome those who make us feel awkward, as well as those with whom we feel comfortable;
 Please help us to involve and talk to those we don't know, as well as those we do;
 Please help us to be willing to make changes to the ways we have done things, if that will help others to belong;
 Remembering all that you gave up to bring us back to you.
 May your kingdom come, your will be done. Amen

Friday

"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth"
John 4:24

Creator God

may our worship exalt you,
 may our worship bring us closer to you,
 may our worship draw others to you.

Lord Jesus Christ

may our worship remember you,
 may our worship give honour to you,
 may our worship teach us more of you.

Holy Spirit of God

may our worship be inspired by you,
 may our worship be enlivened by you,
 may our worship send us out with you.

Blessed Trinity

help us to shape our worship
 so that we, and those whom you are calling
 may worship you in spirit and in truth
 and may be equipped to be your people in the world.
 May your Kingdom come, your will be done. Amen

PRAYING FOR GROWTH *continued*

Saturday/Sunday

Holy Spirit of God,

we thank you that you equip your people with the gifts needed for your church to flourish and grow.

We ask that you will help each one of us to discern the gifts you have given to us

and give us strength and courage to use them

to build up your Church

and bring honour and glory to your name.

May your Kingdom come, your will be done. Amen

Everyday

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

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MOVING FROM 'KEEPING THE CHURCH GOING' ...

On Sunday 3rd February (Candlemas) we heard sermons about "Getting the Church Growing". This set the theme for a series of sermons to help us look at ways to help our churches grow.

The sermons have started us thinking about our own involvement and not just the clergy, lay readers etc. - but each one of us.

With this in mind, at St James one week it was decided to have our coffee in church after the ten o'clock service, another week no one robed - all very interesting and plenty of feedback for us to mull over.

As I write, the next three sermons in the series are yet to be preached but I am sure that they will be just as thought provoking as the first two.

There have been quite a lot of changes over the last few months and most likely there will be more to follow in order for our churches to grow, not just in numbers but in faith too. So, let each one of us pray for the future of the churches in our parish.

The last of the work St James' wardens have been involved in has now started and most likely by the time you read this will have been finished. Thank you, Kate, for all the work you have done to achieve the fencing and steps to the cellar.

From now on the emphasis is on prayer and the growth of our church.

Margaret Foreshew



Simon Heathfield, Archdeacon of Aston, gave a presentation about '**People & Places**' at the Deanery Synod meeting on Wednesday 13th February. It will be on the agenda at our next PCC meeting and everyone will find out more in due course.

In the meantime booklets are available in our churches for you to read - or visit

<http://www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/diocesan-vision-strategy/people-places/>

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

On Tuesday the 12th February, Kate Day, her sponsor, Rachel and I went to Birmingham Cathedral for a rehearsal. This was part of the preparations for Kate's licensing as a reader on Saturday 2nd March. The service begins at 11am and everyone is welcome to attend. Thankfully, the rehearsal went well, and we left reminded that the long wait is almost over and that we will soon have the opportunity to give thanks for another expression of ministry that is growing in the parish.

The office of reader goes back many years and from its beginnings, as the title suggests, of lay people being 'allowed' to read certain services, the ministry of readers is now very far ranging and expresses the many gifts that people bring to the life of the Church. This development is an example of the wonderfully rich sense of possibility that is a feature of current thinking about ministry. Please pray for Kate, for Denise, Gill, Sarah and Graham who, as readers, are such a blessing to us all.

I have been thinking about ministry a great deal recently: the imminence of Kate's licensing and our focus on the 10th February on the ministry of all Christians has deepened my conviction that there are very few jobs to be done in a parish, but there are many ministries. By this I mean that everyone and anyone who involves themselves in the life of the parish is performing a ministry in some sense. Those ministries involve performing certain tasks, but it is the ministry that is the main focus.

In April, we will, among other things, be celebrating the ministry of those who act as Wardens in the parish: Kate Crocker, Linda Alford, Sue Barnard, Graham and Denise Smith, Margaret Foresheew and Linda Pitt all fulfil a very important role and I am sure each of them would want to join me in saying that for every person, readers, wardens, clergy who shoulders these responsibilities, there are many more working with them as a team, and the challenge is to ensure that we all remain focused on ensuring that the ministries we all offer are to the glory of God. Please pray for them; please pray also that God may grant us all a deeper sense of the privilege of the ministries we offer, whatever they may be.

Reverend Peter Law-Jones



BBC TO RUN A 'YEAR OF BELIEFS'

The BBC is going to 'shine a light' on faith and spiritual values in Britain today by running a year of programmes dedicated to religion and ethics.

The move comes a year after the BBC promised to 'raise our game' in the way that it treated religion. That promise followed a year-long review of its religious and ethics output.

So what series should we look out for? Here are just some:

On BBC 1, *Earth's Sacred Wonders* will look at the rituals and monuments of faith around the world; *Medical Ethics* will be a documentary filmed at Great Ormond Street Hospital; and *Pregnant and Platonic* will be a documentary on people who have children without being in a romantic relationship.

On BBC 2, *Inside the Vatican* will show a year in the life of the Vatican community, including Pope Francis; and the popular *Pilgrimage* series will return.

The Bishop of Repton, the Rt. Revd. Jan McFarlane, who chairs the Sandford St Martin Trust, welcomed the BBC's plans. Especially "bringing issues of faith, belief and ethics to as wide an audience as possible."




Mothers' UNION

Wednesday 6th February 2019 - A.G.M.

The meeting was chaired by Father Peter and was attended by the committee and members. The agenda was straight forward and the items were discussed and concluded. Father Peter, the committee members, the members who organise the raffle and the members who provide the refreshments at every meeting were thanked.

This year our M.U. meetings will be monthly and will alternate between Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Anyone can attend these events and will be assured of a warm welcome, watch out for details in this magazine and the pew slips.

Sue Guy



Saturday 16th March
10am at Church House

Thursday 21st March
3.30pm at Widney Junior School

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Friday 1st March - 10.30am
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Theme - 'Come - Everything is Ready'
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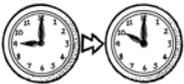
OUR PARISH DIARY FOR MARCH 2019

- 1st ST DAVID
10.30am: World Day of Prayer Service at Shirley Baptist Church
- 2nd 11am: Kate Day's Licensing at Birmingham Cathedral
- 3rd The Sunday next before Lent**
Sermon series – 'Being the church in the week – looking outwards'
9am: St John's & CTK Joint Service at St John's Church
7pm: Reflective Evening Worship at St John's Church
- 4th 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion
- 5th 11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 6th **ASH WEDNESDAY**
10.30am: Holy Communion at St John's Church
10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
7.30pm: Holy Communion at St James Church
- 9th 7.30pm: Quingo Evening at Church House
- 10th The first Sunday of Lent**
Sermon series – Our focus and plan
11.30am: The Friends of St James Walking Group
- 11th 11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion
12.30pm: Lent Lunch at St John's Church
1.45pm: Lent Group at St John's Church
- 12th 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
- 13th 10.30am: Coffee morning at St John's Church
11.00am: Greenhill Way Holy Communion
2pm: Lent Group at Church House
7.30pm: Lent Group at 18 Widney Lane
- 14th 11.30am: 'Easter Journey' rehearsal at St James Church
- 16th 10am: Messy Church at Church House
- 17th The second Sunday of Lent**
ST PATRICK
Sermon series – Our culture
- 18th 12.30pm: Lent Lunch at St John's Church
1.45pm: Lent Group at St John's Church

OUR PARISH DIARY FOR MARCH 2019 *continued*

- 19th JOSEPH OF NAZARETH
10.30am: Mason House Holy Communion
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 20th 10.30am: St John's Bible Study & Prayer Group
10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
2pm: Lent Group at Church House
7.30pm: Lent Group at 18 Widney Lane
- 21st 3.30pm: Messy Church at Widney School
7.30pm: MU Quiz & Nibbles
- 24th The third Sunday of Lent**
Sermon Series – Our calling and journeys
- 25th-29th 'Easter Journey' at St James Church
- 25th THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
12.30pm: Lent Lunch at St John's Church
1.45pm: Lent Group at St John's Church
- 26th 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
- 27th 2pm: Lent Group at Church House
4pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church
7.30pm: Lent Group at 18 Widney Lane
- 28th 7.30pm: PCC Meeting
- 30th 7.30pm: Candlelit Supper at Church House
- 31st The fourth Sunday of Lent**
MOTHERING SUNDAY

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



Don't forget - British Summer Time starts on Sunday 31st March - put your clocks forward one hour

APRIL 2019 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Tuesday 12th March
PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 30th March

SHROVE TUESDAY - PANCAKE DAY - MARCH 5th

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next forty seven days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.



Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always forty seven days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

How do you eat yours?

MAKING SENSE OF LENT

This month sees the start of Lent, the six-week period leading up to Easter. In the early Church, it was a time when new converts were instructed in the faith, ready for their baptism at Easter. Over the years, Lent has become a season of penitence, self-examination and fasting. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for forty days and taught his disciples to fast, '*when you fast..*' (Matthew Chapter 6 verse 17).

MAKING SENSE OF LENT *continued*

Fasting might involve missing one or two meals in a day, refraining from TV or alcohol, or whatever gets in the way of us fully focusing on God. What are the reasons for fasting?

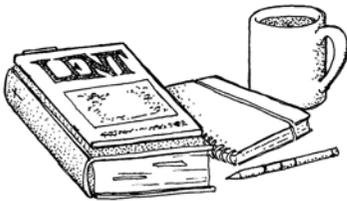
- The act of giving up something is a tangible sacrifice to God, reminding us of our desire to put him first in our lives.
- Giving up things I value shows me how dependent I can be on other things rather than God.
- Fasting helps me to surrender my *'idols'* to God.
- When fasting I am reminded of a deeper hunger and need for God in my life: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew Chapter 5 verse 6). I learn to be more dependent on God, while releasing the stuff I depend on in my life.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, *'random acts of kindness'*, giving more time to prayer and Bible study.

Whatever you do, have a great Lent!

'Jesus takes it for granted that his disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.'

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer).



Reverend Paul Hardingham

IT'S TIME TO RENEW OUR ELECTORAL ROLL

Every six years the Electoral Roll for every Church of England has to be renewed and 2019 is a year when each one of us must fill in a new form.

Please make sure you collect a form, fill it in and return it!

Our Electoral Roll Officer is Margaret Foresheew if you have any queries.



Belong



Participate



Contribute

BE READY. BE WISE. BE CLEAR.

In **Acts Chapter Eight** we read the story of a high-profile leader who was won to Christ. This man held a position similar to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. And he was led to Christ by a low-profile person called Philip, a church deacon.

Lets look at how it happened and see what we can learn:

1) **Philip was ready.** When this man needed someone to explain the gospel to him, Philip was ready to do it.

Could you have done that?

When God has a job that needs to be done, could He call on you?

Would you be prepared?

And willing?

'If anybody asks you why you believe as you do ... tell him' (1 Peter 3 verse 15)

2) **Philip was wise.** He didn't barge in and start preaching, or put this man on the spot by asking 'gotcha' questions. Note two things about Philip: a) he was led by God's spirit and b) he recognised the right moment. Good soul-winners are sensitive and strategic.

3) **Philip was clear.** Instead of a vague dialogue about religion, he spoke directly about Jesus. That's what people need - a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ! They need to know He's alive, and that He loves them. That He's powerful enough to run the universe, yet personal enough to forgive their sins, break their habits, and resolve their doubts.

Your job is to extent the invitation, and let Jesus do the rest. Do you need a soul-winning strategy? Try this one - it works!

Source - 'UCB Word for Today' written by Bob & Debby Gass - a daily devotional which is available free.
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SIGNS & SYMBOLS : THE BELLS, THE BELLS!

Last month we thought about 'crossing ourselves' and in a way I wanted to continue that by asking 'when would you cross yourself?' I can recall people doing it almost superstitiously at times of danger, seeing an ambulance rushing on the road or even as a sign of gratitude at good news.

Many sign themselves to psychologically draw a line before and after their time of prayer. Marking out that time as 'special'. I continue to do so before I eat a meal as a sign of gratitude for the food I shall consume and a request that God will use it to strengthen me to serve him in my day.

Many times in church I notice people do so when the prayer of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost is mentioned.

Did you know that church bells also were and still are sometimes used to reinforce 'holy points'? In the Church of England, Canon Law still requires every church and chapel to provide at least one bell to ring the people to divine service (Canon F8).

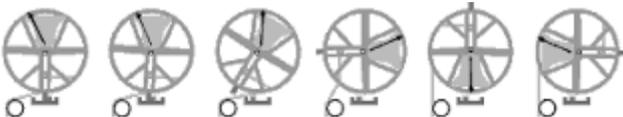


When church services were held in Latin (*not so long ago!*) a bell was usually rung prior to the saying of any and all Trinitarian prayers to forewarn the people so that they could join in with that prayer and specific action. In some churches this continues today even though it is the language of the country being used.

Bells may also be rung at other significant points such as the lifting of the consecrated bread and wine.

Whilst the bells were normally handbells, within rural communities where locals were unable to attend the service due to farming obligations the tower bell may also be rung so they could effectively 'join in as they are able'.

When do you hear church bells this month?



Reverend Dr Jo White

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ADAVU, FOOD & CLOTHING BANKS - update

ADAVU: thanks to the Gift Tree donations at Christmas we were able to give at least two presents to the children and one to the adults, in addition to some new underwear and toiletries.

It's all comparatively straight forward except for the six to nine year old boys; too old for colouring books, cannot have Lego etc. because of the tiny pieces lying around with younger siblings in cramped accommodation, no electronic toys or computer games. At the last moment we bought up Tesco's supplies of small torches! This year I am starting early – very early - getting the idea is the hardest part. I did wonder about those plastic square puzzles we used to have where you slide small squares around to make up a picture? Or bouncing balls which light up? If you have any bright ideas, I would love to hear from you!

Recently Liisa asked for emergency clothing and toiletries for a client admitted to hospital: the daughters of a lady who recently died before she could wear any of the hospital clothing they had bought for her, donated it all to us and within twenty four hours Liisa had her request satisfied!

The lady had been a staunch supporter of ours for many years - she would have been thrilled to know that even at the end she helped someone in need. The large Christmas prezziie bags which you sent in are safely stored at the bottom of the wardrobe, thank you. I have plans to use even the bottle bags - stacking up toy cars, new underwear, toiletries and games inside them.

FOOD BANK: such a busy time recently. You have been wonderful in donating small bags of sugar and dried milk - would that other donors were so helpful. We still have pallets of baked beans and pasta despite giving out double quantities for many months!

We were delighted to welcome Margaret Barber to our Wednesday team, a much needed steady and reliable pair of hands. The work of sorting, dating and packing food parcels is rather repetitive and hardly wildly exciting but is quietly satisfying – if you could spare a couple of hours once a week or fortnight, do arrange to come and have a look and see if you would like to join us. I should warn you that there’s a lot of standing on some hard-concrete floors – high heels are not advisable!

Did you see the teenagers being interviewed on Channel Four? Telling how they try to stop their stomachs rumbling audibly from hunger when in class, and the lying involved to avoid telling their friends they can’t afford to go out for a pizza when there’s a birthday outing? How very sad ...

CLOTHING BANK: as usual the shortages are new underwear for the men, warm socks for all, and trainers/winter shoes for the men. The Collecting Bins at the Q.E. Hospital and elsewhere are producing huge donations, some more suitable than others - evening and cocktail dresses are not in great demand by our clients so they are usually passed on to charity shops and we dump the swimming costumes, worn out (and odd) shoes and dirty underwear - over thirty tatty handbags went to a charity Jumble Sale recently, torn shirts go for rags. But amongst the dross there are warm coats, winter woollies and trousers and they are much appreciated by their new owners. Due to the amount coming in from the Q.E. we are not accepting adult clothing, but Margaret Kew may like it for Troop Aid - perhaps give her a ring and find out.

Spring is nearly here - I do hope it will prove a better year for the folks who have been so desperate through this winter though the way our numbers are increasing it looks doubtful – still, we must hope.

Elizabeth Paice

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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Also Leaders/Helpers are needed for all age groups. No experience necessary. Enquiries please to G.S.L. - Dave Lander on 0121 605 1430.

THANK YOU

*Thank you to all those who bought the
2019 Shirley Parish Calendar.
The profits have been donated to the 'Tuesday Cafe'.*

WORDSEARCH - 25 YEARS OF ORDAINING WOMEN

25 years ago, on 12th March 1994, the first 32 women priests in the Church of England were ordained. It happened in Bristol Cathedral, and Bishop Barry Rogerson ordained them in alphabetical order; so Angela Berners-Wilson was considered the very first woman to be ordained. She is now chaplain at the University of Bath and prebendary at Wells Cathedral. The youngest was Karen MacKinnon, now spiritual care manager at Southampton Hospital. Ten years later, one in five priests was a woman. Of the 542 candidates entering training this year, more than half (274) are women, which is 19 per cent more than last year.



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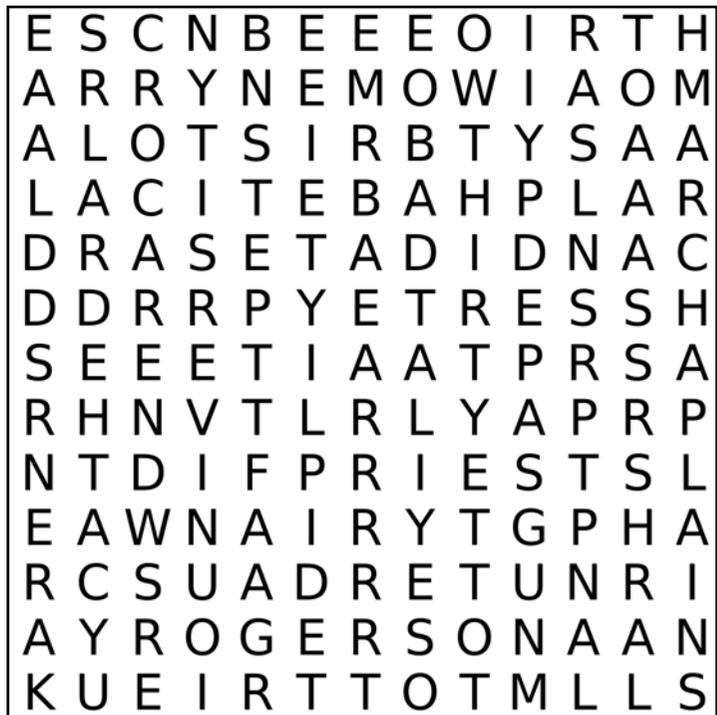
TWO

UNIVERSITY

WOMEN

YEARS

Answers are on page 29



CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

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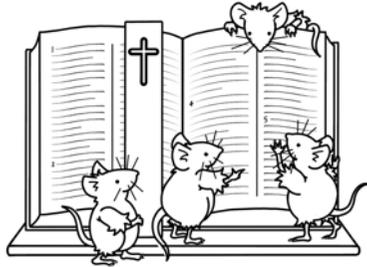
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5	1	7	9	2	4	3	6	8
9	4	1	2	3	8	6	7	5
3	6	2	5	7	1	9	8	4
8	7	5	6	4	9	2	1	3

PUZZLE ANSWERS



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

C	O	R	I	N	T	H	I	A	N	S	
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G	A	I	L	U	N	D					
K	I	N	D	H	E	A	R	T	E	D	

'REFUGEES' by Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help
 So do not tell me
 These haggard faces could belong to you or me
 Should life have dealt a different hand
 We need to see them for who they really are
 Chancers and scroungers
 Layabouts and loungers
 With bombs up their sleeves
 Cut-throats and thieves
 They are not
 Welcome here
 We should make them
 Go back to where they came from
 They cannot
 Share our food
 Share our homes
 Share our countries
 Instead let us
 Build a wall to keep them out
 It is not okay to say
 These are people just like us
 A place should only belong to those who are born there
 Do not be so stupid to think that
 The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

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	8th	Elspeth Alison Hunter Critchley	93
	18th	Iris May Page	87
	27th	Amanda Jane Ansell	60



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