

Shirley Parish Magazine



September 2020

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE

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

SHIRLEY PARISH



**KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

Give to us your people, living God,
A renewed faith and a bold vision
that we may proclaim
the Good News of your Son
with faith that your kingdom will come,
with hope for our community
and with love for Him
who died and rose again
to save us, Jesus Christ our Risen Lord
Amen

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen

OUR CURRENT WORSHIP PATTERN

At St James Church

Sunday at 11am - Short Service of Communion*

Wednesday at 10.30am - Short Service of Communion*

Wednesday 11am to 4pm - Church open for private prayer

Saturday 10am to 4pm - Church open for private prayer

***Numbers are currently limited to 25 so please book your place by telephoning the Parish Office**

At home (times suggested however whenever is convenient for you is fine)

Sunday at 9.30am - Morning Worship on YouTube and on the phone

Sunday at 10.15am - Virtual Coffee via Zoom

Sunday at 7pm (first Sunday of the month) - Reflective Worship on YouTube and on the phone

Thursday at 7pm - Midweek Reflection on YouTube and on the phone

Saturday at 9am - Parish Prayers via Zoom

Third Saturday of the month - Messy Church

The number to dial to listen on the phone is 0121 270 9089



The new banner outside St James Church ...



HOW CAN WE PLAN WHEN THINGS ARE SO UNCERTAIN?

In normal times round about now we would be planning services and events for the Autumn and up to the end of the year - Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas. We would see these as major festivals when the buildings would be full and when we would sing familiar hymns and hear the familiar stories. We would be thinking about the Journey to the Stable, and the logistics of hundreds of small children coming into the St James building to hear the Christmas story.

But this year ...

This year we need to be creative. It seems to me highly unlikely that we will be able to have a church full of people in the months ahead. Whether or not there is a 'second spike' of the virus, social distancing of some kind will probably be with us for some time. There is a huge uncertainty about when we will be able to sing again in church. 15 or 20 six-year olds squeezing into the prayer chapel along with 3 or 4 adults during one of the Journey activities is simply not going to happen.

So what should we do?

We will continue to use the Internet; we can develop what we do on the phone line; we can try to ensure everyone is kept informed and has paper copies of services as the bare minimum and we will make the most of what we can do in the buildings. We can work with the British Legion, with schools and with the wider community to include as many as possible in what we do as we plan ahead. But things will of course be different.

This shouldn't discourage us. We have been trying new things almost every day since March and have, in many cases, embraced them well. Over the next weeks we will be looking at ways we might be able to record and broadcast services from within the St James buildings; we will talk to schools to see if somehow through the Internet we can take the Journey to the Stable to them, rather than them coming to us. We will think about the possibilities of an All Souls memorial service and a Remembrance service, online.

The banner that has been outside St James since March saying 'the building may be closed but the church is alive and active' has been seen by many as they have passed by on the Stratford Road. With the building now being open – albeit on a limited basis – it now carries the message that 'the churches are much more than just the buildings'. We have to hold that in mind as we plan for the months ahead. We must not let the restrictions in place prevent us from living out and proclaiming the Christian message.

Reverend Paul Day

Thank you!

A big 'thank you' to everyone that supported St John's Virtual Summer Fete - it was a great success!

To our Parish knitters - "Thank you on behalf of everyone involved with the NHS knitted Angels. You are the rainbow in our storm."




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LITTLE NICK – UNLOCKING

Apparently, lockdown is unlocking. Not that anybody bothered to tell me, a small white fluffy kitten, what that might mean.

I had noticed a few changes. We have stopped going out on a Thursday night to clap for the NHS. The neighbours who were bringing us fish and chips have become less frequent in their deliveries (still brilliant – thank you Ann and Stewart). Some grandchildren appeared. Sarah disappeared to help Holly make things while Jo was back at school and their Mum worked from home. There was talk of bingo and Nordic walking.

There was excitement when staff at the Pump House were spotted jet washing the area out the front where the tables go and even more excitement when Sarah got to use her bus pass for the first time. I suggested that she was being pathetic but she indignantly pointed out that she had had it for four months unused and needed to check that it actually worked! I have overheard a number of conversations in which the words 'reopened' and 'need to go' have featured.

Not everything has changed. Online shopping is still accompanied by moans and groans, and when it arrives, 'Did I really order that? Umm apparently I did'. One week we had to eat broccoli every night because someone had messed up the quantity. The table in the front room is still full of half-done jigsaws or half made Food Bank bags. The only change to the pile of unread books in the bedroom is that it is dustier – not smaller.

During lockdown we were renamed 'the Blue Peter house'. Bernard and Sarah have made all sorts of strange things to use for Messy Church at home, and even for 'soak the vicar'. Currently we are a bingo hub – there are lists of who to deliver cards to for the next time, or prizes from last time. And woe betide anyone who feels peckish and opens a KitKat only to find it labelled with someone else's name. Did you hear about the person who organised a walk without checking that the car park where they were to going to meet was actually open? You can guess who that was.

We enjoyed tea in Margaret's garden during St John's online fete. We also enjoyed the carrot cake and raffle prize afterwards. This week has seen trips out for coffee, lunch, to the garden centre and on Sunday a service in church for the first time. And hopefully more meet ups for coffee next week.

But it would be much better if I was allowed to go along as well ...

AS LOCKDOWN EASES ...

As the lockdown eased, Sarah challenged us to think about things that we have done during lockdown and would like to continue doing afterwards – these are some of the thoughts received – what are yours?

Kate Crocker

- * Changed pace and priorities.
- * Become much more aware of the unfolding of Spring and Summer.
- * Greatly enjoyed talking to fellow parishioners who I did not really know before... what lovely people they are!!

Jan Dalton

- * Keeping in regular touch with those on my weekly call list. I've made new friends!
- * Cooking with my son. We have had so much fun and learnt new skills!
- * Smiling and saying 'hello' to people while out walking. Everyone has certainly been more friendly since lockdown!

Sarah Penfold

- * To carry on having a walk with Bernard every day, although I haven't told him yet.
- * Now that I have got to grips with the sewing machine – not to forget again which probably means using it more.
- * To carry on chatting with at least some of the people I have been phoning regularly.



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For details about the school contact the PA to the Principal - Mrs G Sutton

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Phone: 0121 744 7897 office@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk www.stjames.tgacademy.org.uk

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the July & August winners

£50 - Barbara Neale & Barry Robinson

£25 - William Toddington & Mary Hunt

SUNFLOWERS

Whilst filling up the birdfeeders during lockdown my husband had the idea of planting some sunflower seeds in the two beds in our front garden. The garden centres were closed, and we did not know when the nursery, where we usually buy our bedding plants, would open.

He planted over two hundred sunflower seeds, not knowing if they would grow at all.

Slowly but surely small shoots appeared, and they continued to grow, causing lots of interest from passers by. Many a conversation was had with complete strangers trying to guess what we were growing.

Eventually the green flower buds appeared, the excitement was growing.

We now have a sea of yellow, sunflowers waving in the breeze.

The flowers have certainly brought a smile to my face and the realisation that beauty exists amidst difficult times and terrible happenings in the world.

Sunflowers symbolise adoration, loyalty and longevity. They are happy flowers!

*'Follow the Son of God as the young sunflower follows the sunshine
Following His Light and example will bring us joy, happiness and peace.'*
Quentin L Cook

Linda Pitt





The Mothers' Union wants to help families of key workers by offering them a range of free day trips/experiences and short breaks. It is appealing to MU supporters to help make this possible.

As a spokeswoman for MU explains: "There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to

cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers. But because of their personal sacrifices, quality family time has not always been possible.

Therefore, we are extending our existing Away From It All programme (AFIA) to say a special 'thank you' to key workers in these unprecedented times.

Any donation will help provide a range of day trips/experiences and short breaks for families of key workers, especially for those who have been kept apart or who are on low incomes - families who would generally be unable to have experiences like this."

If you would like to send a donation, go to:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/>

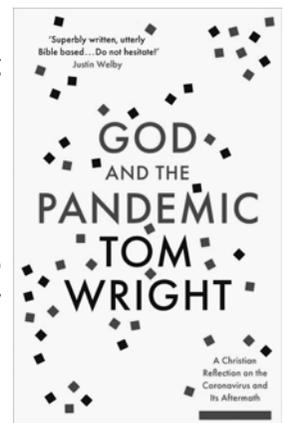
or <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/mothersunionkeyworkers>

GOD AND THE PANDEMIC

What are we supposed to think about the coronavirus crisis? Some people think they know: "This is a sign of the End," they say. "It's all predicted in the book of Revelation."

Others disagree but are equally clear: "This is a call to repent. God is judging the world and through this disease He's telling us to change." Some join in the chorus of blame and condemnation: "It's the fault of the Chinese, the Government, the World Health Organization..."

In his new book, Tom Wright examines these reactions to the virus and finds them wanting. Instead, he invites you to consider a different way of seeing and responding – a way that draws on the teachings and examples of scripture, and above all on the way of living, thinking and praying revealed to us by Jesus.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN DISCIPLE?

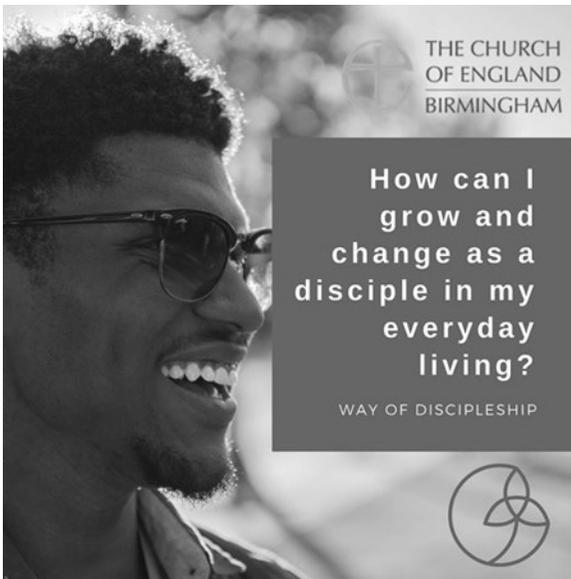
When we hear the word ‘disciple’ we probably think of the twelve men specially called by Jesus – Peter, James, John, Andrew and the others. But the word disciple has a much broader application – it can mean ‘learner’ or, perhaps more accurately, ‘apprentice’.

Apprentice – I expect that brings to mind images of a master craftsman handing on their skills and knowledge to a younger person eager to learn the trade and to be the best they can be. Maybe you or someone you know has been an apprentice. If you were, perhaps you can recall the way you were taught and the skills you learned.

In the Autumn we are joining with the Diocese to run a course called ‘Way of Discipleship’. It will give us a chance to think about our own faith, the way we understand and relate to God and how that faith can help us as we live day by day.

In it we will, like an apprentice, see how we can learn life skills from Jesus - the master craftsman, and we will see how we can put those things into practice in the way we live. If some of the things we have talked about in our sermons recently – about being on a journey with God and growing in our faith – have rung bells with you, this could be right up your street.

It promises to be an exciting journey – learning not only from Jesus but also from each other because we each have different experiences and ways of seeing things that are worth sharing and hearing.



The course will be on Wednesday evenings starting in October – details to follow – and initially at least we will meet online using Zoom. If Wednesdays don’t work for you other courses will be running across the Diocese and we can help you join with one of them. No travelling of course is needed as we are all online from our own homes!

If you think this might be something you’d like to be part of give me a ring and we can have a chat about how you might get involved.

Reverend Paul Day

FOOD BANK & CLOTHING BANK NEWS

FOOD BANK: you may recall that David and I have not been going to the Food Bank during lockdown. This was at the strict instructions of our families which we reluctantly obeyed! We have missed collecting and delivering the donations to Tyseley and making up the parcels each week. We felt that we had let them down just when every pair of hands was needed. However other folks who were on furlough stepped forward and the service was maintained to the ever-increasing numbers of desperate clients.

The serious flooding through the faulty roof ruined the Reception area, the carpets and furniture. Luckily, the majority of the food was in the other half of the warehouse and that escaped most of the damage. The valiant staff stayed late into the night to cover the more vulnerable food. Clients are no longer admitted to the Reception area for a sit down, warm drink and confidential discussion about their situation. Instead the parcels are handed out through a hatch with folks queuing up outside at the required distances. The shortages are mentioned in the newsheet each week – currently **tinned fruit, dried milk, small bags of sugar and instant mash**. Please put your donations in the collecting boxes in Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Tesco's.

We continue to send the material bags made by Chris Speakman and her team – they are used and appreciated but strong plastic bags are also still required.

CLOTHING BANK: very little clothing is being accepted for the time being. Rarely we are asked for specific items and we usually manage to rustle up some of those. Recently the request was for youngsters' items aged 4 to 14; thank you to the mothers who sorted through their children's wardrobes and brought us such excellent donations of sensible everyday clothes. With winter coming, warm indoor and outdoor clothes will be vital.

The HOMELESS NURSE PRACTITIONER (for Heartlands, Good Hope and Solihull Hospitals) has been thrilled with the bedding, towels and saucepans we were able to pass on to her for her "lads" as they leave hospital and are re-housed. If you hear of anymore, please bring them to us and we will ensure that they get to Nurse Jacqui, who has been in that post for more than twenty years and is totally dedicated to her work.

It's a very strange world at the moment but we do what we can to help within difficult and strict parameters – even as we miss our family desperately we still feel that we are amongst the lucky ones, so many near at hand are not.

Best wishes to you all

Elizabeth Paice

MEMORIES ...

Just had a telephone call from Ella, one of my many friends from church. She rang to share with me her memories of her late husband. I thought I would like to share it with you.

Ella met her husband at the age of 17 - he was 19 (he was 18 when he went in the navy - 1942)

Before sailing he asked her for a photograph as was the custom then, she had two, one of which she gave to her brother and one for Harry.

After the war and they were married he showed the photograph to her, by this time it was a little worn to say the least, on the back of this were the words that Ruth said to Naomi, her mother in law.

***“Where you go I will go, where you stay I will stay
Your people will be my people and your God shall be my God
Nothing but death will part me from you”
(Ruth Chapter 1 verse 16)***

Obviously, my friend was quite emotional and rang to share this with me. Harry passed away fifteen years ago but our memories live on forever.

Margaret Foreshew

THANK YOU, FABRIC BAG TROOPERS!

Despite these strange times, the fabric bags for the Foodbank continue to make their way to very grateful new owners. We are giving people who have very little something of their own to use and re-use, at the same time as reducing the number of plastic bags needed to pack up the food requirements. Thank you all for supplying us with card, which Bernard cuts to size for the bag bases, and for all the fabric provided, and to those making up the bags.

The system for exchanging fabric and bags has been working well. (Do contact me if you would like more details.) The finished bags arrive similarly and, after a few days of quarantine, make their way to the Foodbank in Tyseley or to the Hall Green satellite, where they are very gratefully received.

Please keep them coming! Thank you.



Chris Speakman

HOLY HOWLERS

These statements were written by children when asked questions about the Old Testament in a Caithness school test. Thanks to Kate Crocker for sharing, more to follow in future issues!

In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.

Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.

Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

The jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.

Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“THE FRUIT OF SILENCE IS
PRAYER,

THE FRUIT OF PRAYER IS
FAITH,

THE FRUIT OF FAITH IS LOVE,

THE FRUIT OF LOVE IS
SERVICE

AND THE FRUIT OF SERVICE IS
PEACE.”

Mother Theresa



WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

September is usually the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. With the current coronavirus pandemic, it's very different this year! However, it is still a good time to consider how God can use us to make a real difference in our workplace, school, family, friends and community. He equips us with everything we need to make His love known.

When God gave Moses the job of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, He asked the question, '*What is in your hand?*' (Exodus 4:2). Moses was holding his staff, which represented his livelihood (what he was good at); his resources (his flock represented his wealth) and his security (which God was asking him to lay down). God asks the same question of us: *What has God given you?* Our gifts, temperament, experience, relationships, mind, education can be used in the work God has given us to do. How will we use them to make a difference in the places where He calls us to serve Him?

John Ortberg, in his book *It All Goes Back in the Box*, speaks of Johnny, a 19-year-old with Downs syndrome. He worked at a supermarket checkout putting people's items into bags. To encourage his customers, he decided to put a *thought for the day* into the bags. Every night his dad would help him to prepare the slips of paper and he would put the thoughts into the bags saying, '*I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here.*' A month later the store manager noticed that Johnny's line at the checkout was three times longer than anyone else's! People wanted Johnny's thought for the day. He wasn't just filling bags with groceries, he was filling lives with hope!

What has God given *you* that will help and encourage others?



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STRENGTH
*a very present
help in trouble
therefore we will **not** fear.*

Psalm 46:1



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WHAT IS HEALTH?

In the Gospels the healing miracles of Jesus are sometimes called ‘cures’ and sometimes ‘making well or whole’. These are attempts by the translators to convey a difference in the nature of what had happened. People who had ‘conditions’ (blind, lame, infirm) were ‘cured’. Those with serious illness were often said to be ‘made whole’. When Jesus was faced with ten people with leprosy, nine were described as ‘cured’ and one – the Samaritan who came back in gratitude, was ‘made whole’ (Luke 17:19). So was the woman with a long-term haemorrhage, who touched the hem of the Lord’s garment: ‘your faith has made you whole (well)’ (Luke 8:45).

This suggests that ‘health’ is more than being free of sickness.

Indeed, it seems to imply that health relates to *our whole life experience* – to be truly healthy, we are ‘well’ mentally, physically and spiritually. People can be desperately ill but in the deepest sense of the word be radiantly ‘healthy’. That may sound odd, but just as ‘peace’ is not simply the absence of war, so ‘health’ is not just the absence of illness.

GREEN MUFFINS

This is one of the recipes that came with this year's Macmillan Coffee Morning pack (see page 18). Who's going to be brave enough to try it?!

Ingredients - for six

- 1 small courgette (or swap for parsnips or carrots) - trimmed and coarsely grated
- 10g unsalted butter
- 50g peas
- 120g spinach
- 150ml plain yoghurt
- 1 medium egg - beaten
- 20g Parmesan cheese - finely grated
- 60g Cheddar cheese - grated
- 190g self-raising flour



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas mark 5 and put six paper cases in a muffin tin.
2. Wrap the grated courgette in a clean tea towel and wring out to remove the excess water.
3. Melt the butter in a saucepan over a medium heat.
4. Stir in the grated courgette and peas and cook for a minute, until the vegetables begin to sizzle.
5. Stir in the spinach and cook for 3-4 minutes until the spinach has completely wilted and no liquid remains in the saucepan. Set aside and let cool slightly.
6. Combine the yoghurt, beaten egg, grated Parmesan and all but a small handful of the grated Cheddar cheese in a bowl.
7. In a second mixing bowl measure out the flour and add the vegetables from the saucepan.
8. Tip the yoghurt mixture into this and mix quickly, but not too thoroughly, with a large spoon.
9. Divide the mixture between the muffin cases and sprinkle with the reserved grated Cheddar cheese
10. Bake for 25 minutes or until well-risen and golden on top.
11. Cool on a wire rack for at least 15 minutes and serve warm or cold.



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10.45am - guess how many sprinkles are on Colin the Caterpillar's back

11am - Baking quiz

11.30am - Order your home-made cakes and marmalade

11.45am - Book sale

12noon - Raffle

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HARVEST

This year we will be celebrating Harvest over the weekend of **26th and 27th September**. Our main Harvest Festival service will be the online worship on 27th September, and there will also be a short communion in St James Church at 11am.

On Saturday 26th, Church House will be open from 10am – 12 noon for people to bring their Harvest gifts which will, as always, go to the Sparkhill Foodbank. Please check the pewslip in the weeks before to see what items are particularly needed. The alternatives are that you place your gifts in the Foodbank bins in the local supermarkets, or make a donation - details below.

And in the evening of Saturday 26th we will be holding a Harvest Supper and Quiz with a difference. The difference is that each of us will be in our own homes, we will each be providing our own supper and the quiz will be over the Internet using Zoom.



There will be no entrance fee for the quiz, but we ask that you consider making a donation to the Foodbank. More information will follow – so keep your eyes open and sharpen up your brain!

By phone - 0121 708 1798

By cheque - send to Sparkhill Food Bank, Units 20-21, Rovex Business Park,
Hay Hall Road, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2AQ

Online - <https://sparkhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

OCTOBER 2020 PARISH MAGAZINE

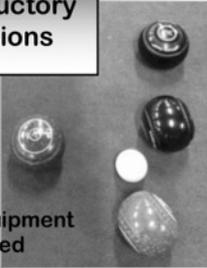
DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Saturday 12th September

PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 26th September

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SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club's July read - *The President's Hat* by Antoine Laurain - was one of those relatively rare occasions when everyone liked, and were even charmed, by the book.

Belinda thought it was brilliant, the best book she has read for some time and wanted to give it ten out of ten.

Jill loved it and was fascinated by the ways the hat impacted on people's lives. She also loved the French-ness of the novel and how Mitterrand turned out to be on the case throughout.

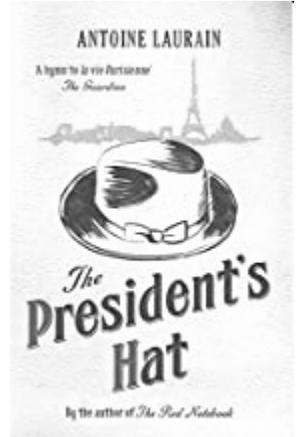
Pat, who recommended the book, wrote how much she had enjoyed the story, how funny she found it, and how relieved she was that there was no Spanish Civil War in the novel.

Sue H was delighted by the story, which she found very funny and clever. She also loved several sentences in the story, which she quoted in her response.

Mary was gripped from the start and couldn't put it down, delighted by the circular nature of the plot. The story led her to wondering about a very old Vera-like hat she has, but can't remember where it came from.

Margaret Jones also mentioned the circular nature of the plot and how much she had enjoyed such an engrossing and accessible read.

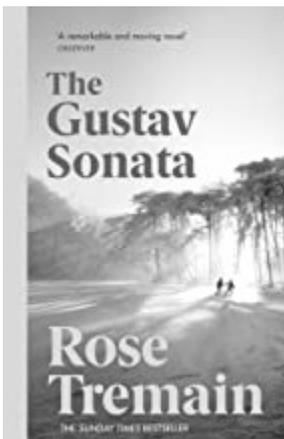
Like so many of us, Ursula used the word 'delightful' about the book. She was totally convinced by the way an item of clothing can influence the way people feel about themselves and their place in the world. It's shoes that do it for her.



Andrew and Sue both said how engaging and entertaining they found the novel. Sarah felt the same and found it so enjoyable, she read it more than once.

'The real author of a novel is not only the person who tells it, but even more, the person who hears it' (Gerard Genette).

This is particularly true of our Book Club's latest read, *The Gustav Sonata* by Rose Tremain. Set in Switzerland in the early years of WW2 it tells the story of a young family whose lives are blighted by what happens to the husband, a policeman, who is sacked because he helps Jewish families escape Nazism. At the centre of the novel is the friendship between their son, Gustav, and his friend Anton, a gifted pianist.



... continued over the page

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB *continued*

Genette's words about the real author being the person who hears it, at least as much as the person who tells it, came to life with this novel. One of the Book Club, Mary Hobbs, had direct experience, as a child, of Kindertransport children arriving in England and being welcomed with considerable warmth by English families. As a result, she found this novel both hugely moving and, because it touched her life so closely, a special experience.

Several others in the Book Club, although the novel didn't touch their personal experience, found it moving. Sue Harries loved the book and found the story, the characters, and the writing style all very emotional. She calls it 'a great book'. Belinda Piasecki also found it moving and beautifully written.

Pat Green found it a lovely book about the bonds of friendship irrespective of race or creed. Descriptive and emotional - you have to read on. The central character, Gustav, grows into a very complete human being in spite of his fractured childhood. Unconditional love helped him to master himself and the situation. Such patience is delightful.

Jill Abbey thought this novel 'a winner ... the characters really drew me in, and I felt very emotionally drawn to Gustav. What a very tragic childhood. It was unconditional love that pulled him through.'

Having said all that, there were others on the Book Club who weren't so drawn in by the story. They lost interest part way through, or even if they did complete the novel, were left unmoved. Which is the great thing about this Book Club – we all read different things into different books. Malorie Blackman says that reading a novel is like looking at a window – you either see through the glass into another world, or you see your own reflection, and by implication, an image of your own life.

For Mary it was a vivid reflection of her own life, for others an insight in the past.

Next for the Book Club

We have a had a growing selection of novels (fervently) recommended for our next read and as a special summer holiday feast of reading – or a lockdown escape - we are listing here all the recommendations for readers to choose ONE – for a start, anyway.

Deacon King Kong by James MacBride: set in the New York Projects, gripping, and revealing. Definitely a 'black lives matter' experience. Available quite cheaply via Kindle, but more expensive on paper.

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB *continued*

The Dean's Watch by Elizabeth Goudge – set in the eighteenth century and about a friendship between a cathedral dean and an old clockmaker. Easily available online at varying prices.

The Secrets of Strangers by Charity Norman. A tense thriller 'elegant, heart-breaking, tense and heartfelt'. Available at various prices.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delian Owens. A huge and recent bestseller about a young girl abandoned in the marsh lands of North Carolina. Available in Sainsbury's at the moment at an extremely low price.

The Paper Bracelet by Rachel English: reminiscent of the film *Philomena* – Irish nuns, lost children, bereft mothers. Easily available at low prices.

The Glovemaker's Daughter by Leah Fleming – about a girl and her family in 1666 who are forced to flee to the New World because of their faith. Available at more than reasonable cost online.



Ray Speakman

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CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

We are having discussions with ADAVU about the possibility of providing gifts for their clients this Christmas. It seems almost impossible that we can have a tree as we have had in previous years, or that they will have a party as such. So we are looking at creative ways to provide much needed gifts probably from a shorter list of options. Hopefully we will have some more news for the October magazine.

In the meantime it has been suggested that warm jumpers for small children are always useful and I have been given a basic pattern for a jumper and hat if anyone is interested in knitting.

Sarah Penfold



VIRTUAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday November 21st ~ 2pm - 4pm

Inspired by the amazing achievements of the St John's Summer Fete, I am going to try a similar event to raise much-needed funds for St James's. It will take place on Zoom although, who knows, we may have some limited access to Church House by then as well.

There will of course be a raffle, guess the weight of a Christmas Cake, sale (and delivery) of cakes, mince pies, produce, Christmas cards, cuddly toys, festive looking face masks ... all ideas welcome.

I thought it might be nice to have a competition (with prizes) for a picture (or craft piece) on the theme 'The Spirit of Christmas 2020'. The entries could be shown online and displayed in church.



This is very much the start (and I need to learn how to do the tech) but it means we can make the best of Christmas even with restrictions.

Watch this space!

Kate Crocker

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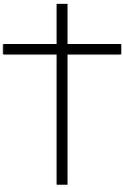
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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

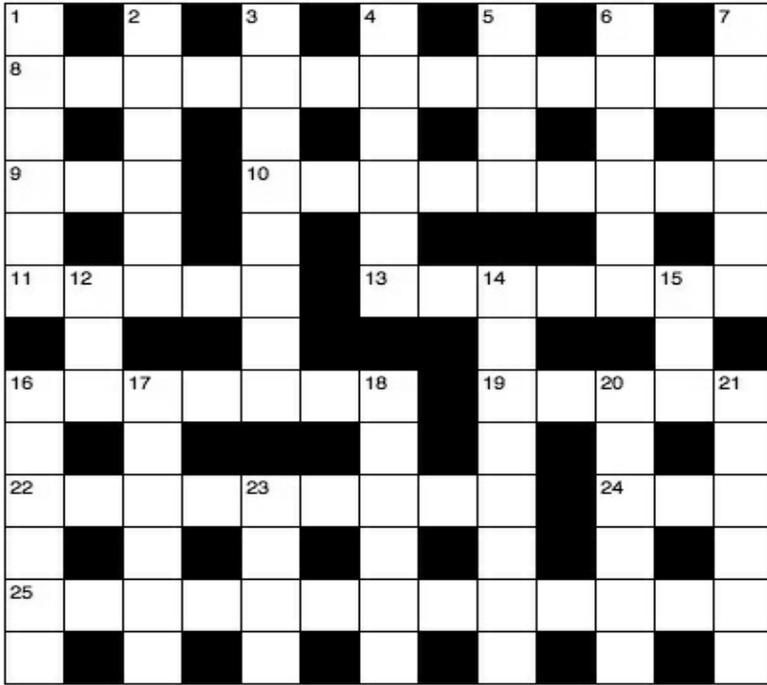
Across

- 8** Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9** One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10** Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
- 11** ‘Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ’ (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13** Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16** ‘Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger’ (John 8:6) (7)
- 19** Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22** Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down** ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25** There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1** Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2** See 24 Across
- 3** Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4** Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5** The Bible’s shortest verse: ‘Jesus — ’ (John 11:35) (4)
- 6** ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?’ (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7** Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12** ‘Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem’ (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14** Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15** United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16** One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17** Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18** — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20** ‘Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight’ (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21** ‘Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23** What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



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Three Down, Nine
Across,
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Answers are
on page 31

WORDSEARCH - SEPTEMBER 29th

The Church gives thanks for angels in September: the 29th is the feast day of Michael and All Angels. Since the days of Genesis, these messengers of God have been sent many times to intervene for the good in human affairs. Angels guarded the Garden of Eden, they led Lot away from Gomorrah, they helped Gideon, they stopped Balaam, they closed the mouths of lions for Daniel, and, most important, the archangel Gabriel was sent to tell Mary that she would mother the Messiah. Angels sat in the empty tomb of Jesus and told of His Resurrection. Revelation is teaming with angels, sent on all sorts of missions by God in the last times. Today, many Christians in the world's hot spots report having had angels help them when in mortal danger.



*Answers are
on page 31*

ALL
ANGELS
ARCHANGEL
BALAAM
CHURCH
DANGER
DANIEL
EDEN
FEAST
GABRIEL
GARDEN
GENESIS
GIDEON
GOD
INTERVENE
LIONS
LOT
MARY
MESSENGERS
MICHAEL
MOTHER
MOUTHS
REVELATION
SENT
TEAMING
THANKS

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

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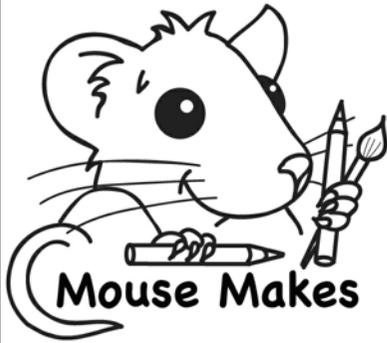
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"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will thank you: I will praise you for ever and ever."

Psalm 145:1-2

Glory to God



"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what He has done."

Psalm 19:1

Cut out and colour these cards to help you to **thank** and **praise** God.



God my guide



"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

God's World

"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord: the earth and all who live on it are His."

Psalm 24:1



Praise the Lord!

"Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord."

Psalm 150:6



Give thanks!

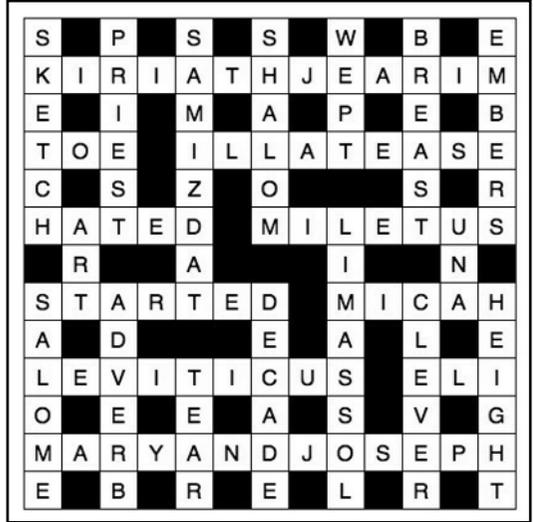
"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. I will give You thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer."

Psalm 63:3-4



PUZZLE ANSWERS

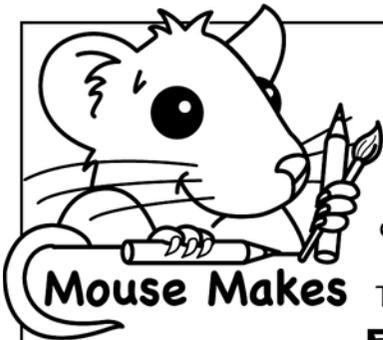
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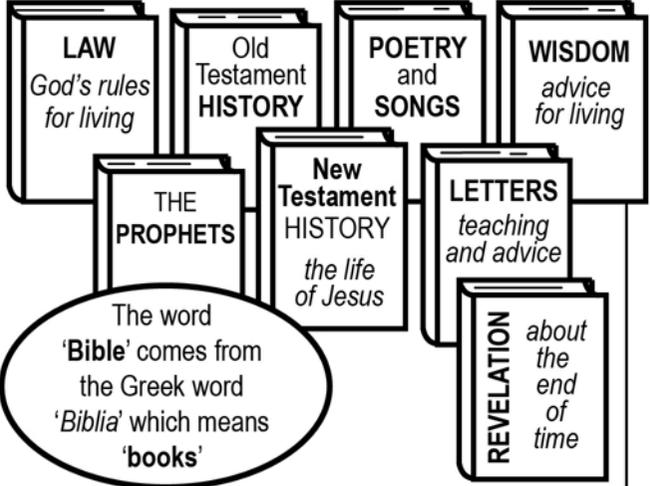
There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

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



The word 'Bible' comes from the Greek word 'Biblia' which means 'books'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:

Mirror
James 1:23

Food
Hebrews 5:12- 6:1

Honey and Gold
Psalm 19:10

Light
Psalm 119:105

Rain
Isaiah 55:10-12

Seed
Mark 4:14

"God said..."

Living Word
Hebrews 4:12

Hammer
Jeremiah 23:29

Fire
Jeremiah 20:9

Sword
Ephesians 6:17

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

PARISH FUNERALS

June	30th	Kenneth Prince	90
July	7th	Colin Rawson Hill	76
	7th	Dean Joshua Woodward	28
	14th	Pamela Doreen Coombs	77
	23rd	Gwendoline Lucy Mynott	95
	28th	Jean Margaret Cox	88
August	14th	Gordon Price	80



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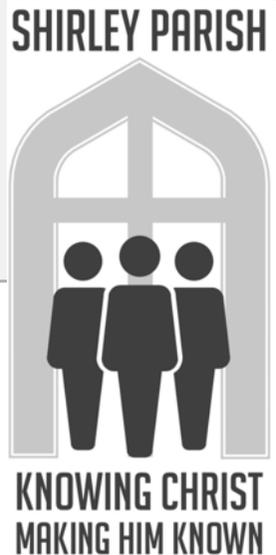
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