

SHIRLEY PARISH



**KNOWING CHRIST  
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

## 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

## MOVING FROM 'KEEPING THE CHURCH GOING' TO 'GETTING THE CHURCH GROWING'

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



**Thursday 11th April**  
3.30pm at Widney School

**Saturday 20th April**  
10am at Church House



**Activities and worship for all ages - do come and join us!**

## 'GROWING WITH GOD'

On Saturday 9th March a group of us went from the parish to a day conference at St Luke's Gas Street called Growing with God. Linda Alford, Sarah Penfold, Kate Law-Jones and I spent the day learning and being challenged about ministry to children and young people. This was part of our efforts in the parish to look for ways to reach out more effectively to the younger families in Shirley, not to the exclusion of other groups, but in order to enrich our life as a worshipping community.

I learned some interesting things, some of which were very practical, like how to make model people out of pipe cleaners, but also how to develop a culture of welcome based on prayerful reflection. Speaking for myself, the most important thing I brought away from the day was that the mission is God's and our responsibility is not to get in the way. This is not a new insight by any means, but it was good to be reminded of its importance.

I also found myself thinking afresh about what it means to speak about success and failure in church life. I'm always cautious about apparently obvious answers to complex questions and I was reassured by what I heard that Saturday. Very often, it isn't a question of success or failure, but rather recognising what is effective for one set of circumstances might not be so effective in a different setting.

So, I found myself wondering whether this Lent might be observed most profitably by thinking and praying hard about what helps us and what hinders us as individuals and as a parish when it comes to our own journey of faith and encouraging others in theirs.

Another way of putting this might be to recall the words of Dag Hammarskjöld: **"For all that has been, thanks; for all that will be, yes."** For what should we be giving thanks? To what should we be saying yes?

Reverend Peter Law-Jones



## WE HAVE A NEW ARCHDEACON

The Bishop of Birmingham has announced the appointment of a new Archdeacon of Birmingham. Reverend Canon Jenny Tomlinson, currently Mission and Ministry Adviser for the Colchester Episcopal Area, will take up the post from May 2019.

Jenny read history at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and worked in NHS management in Surrey. She trained for ordination at Ridley Hall Cambridge and served her curacy in the parish of St John the Baptist Busbridge, in Guildford Diocese. She was among the first women to be ordained priest in 1994.

Jenny moved to the Diocese of Chelmsford in 1998 and has held parish posts in Grays and the Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry, and as an Interim Minister in the North Blackwater parishes. As a healthcare chaplain in South West Essex, she initiated a new model of community chaplaincy.

She was appointed the Bishop of Chelmsford's Adviser on Women's Ministry in 2008, and as Mission and Ministry Adviser in 2011. Jenny has been a member of General Synod since 2009. She is married to David, who is also ordained. They have two adult daughters.



## LENT GROUPS

### **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

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 16 FOR TIMES AND PLACES**

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT MESSY CHURCH?

Saturday Messy Church began its life at ten o'clock on Saturday 19th January – a dismal wet January morning.



Soon, however, Church House was transformed and became a hive of activity – buzzing with noise and conversation. We weren't sure how many people would come; we had no idea if the families we had invited would brave the rain and the cold. As it was we had ten children, including three baptism families that we had invited. Others came who used to attend the Four o'clock Log in and grandparents brought their grandchildren.

We were looking at the story of creation. All the activities were connected with the theme – from fruit kebabs to balloon globes to messy slime. The kitchen was a production line for tea and toast. All had a great time.

After an hour or so of craft activities, we gathered together to hear the story of creation, we prayed using the prayer tree we had put together and we sang God's praise in the all-too-catchy song "Lovely Jubbly" which has since become our theme tune.

We were all encouraged and began the planning for the February session which took place on 16th February.

We knew that some people who came in January couldn't make it this time, so were again unsure of what the numbers would be. We opened the doors, and people kept on coming in.

One mother was invited by a church member and brought along her triplets; another came with her family of five children – having been invited when she was at the St John's Coffee Morning. Others had simply seen it advertised and came to see what was going on.

Our theme was Noah – looking at how God is in the business of giving us new starts when we get things wrong. We made rainbow tubes, animal masks, rainsticks and doves. The kitchen supplied mountains of toast and oceans of coffee; conversations were had; friends were made. We finished again by worshipping God, thanking him for his promise illustrated by the rainbow and praying using our sunshine and cloud prayers. And then we all joined in with the crazy words of Lovely Jubbly.

## MESSY CHURCH *continued*

A question that has been asked is – when will these people come to church then? The answer is of course that they are already coming to church – Messy Church. Worshipping God in a way that works for them and their families.

By the time you read this, the March Messy Church will be history – but we will continue to meet at ten o'clock on the third Saturday of each month – in April this will be the day between Good Friday and Easter Day (no prizes for guessing the theme).

Can you follow the examples that have been set and invite some of your friends, or bring your grandchildren or simply come yourself – either to help or to find out more?

And just in case you were wondering what those words were ...

*He gave the mouse its squeak, shark their teeth*

*He made legs that jump, gave camels the hump*

*He made the kangaroo and humans too*

*He even gave us lips so good for kissing*

*He made fish that fly, eyes that cry*

*He made birds that poo, upon your shoe*

*He made whales that sing, bees that sting*

*He even gave the cat its furry bottom*

*And it's lovely jubbly - all of God's creation*

*Lovely jubbly - all of God's creation*

*Lovely jubbly - all of God's creation*

*He made it all, he made it all, he made it all*

*He made dogs that point, pigs that oink*

*He made dolphin's smiles, crocodiles*

*He made a zillion things fly with wings*

*He even gave us tongues to good for licking*

*He made things that scoot, some that hoot*

*He made some things smell, not so well*

*He made wind to blow, clouds to snow*

*He even made your knees that are so wobbly*





STEPHEN & PHILIP  
PAINTER

---

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED

---

TEL: 0121 707 1172

213 YARDLEY ROAD, ACOCKS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM, B27 6LZ.

**NEW HALL GREEN OFFICE NOW OPEN**

192 ROBIN HOOD LANE, HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM, B28 0LG.

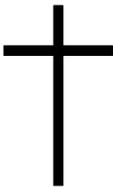
TEL: 0121 777 4300

THE ONLY FUNERAL HOMES STILL OWNED BY THE PAINTER FAMILY. PROVIDING  
A DIGNIFIED & PERSONAL SERVICE ACROSS BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL

**24 HOUR SERVICE**

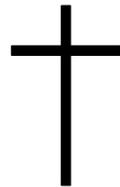
[WWW.STEPHENANDPHILIPPAINTER.COM](http://WWW.STEPHENANDPHILIPPAINTER.COM)

## Monumental Masons



### BANNOCKS OF SOLIHULL

Five generations of quality manufacturing  
and service from a family business.



All aspects of Monumental Masonry

PERSONAL ATTENTION ~ ADVISORY SERVICE  
LARGE DISPLAY

117 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull B90 3PF  
(Opposite Robin Hood Cemetery)

**Tel: 0121 744 1727**

[www.bannocksmemorials.co.uk](http://www.bannocksmemorials.co.uk)

## CONGRATULATIONS KATE DAY



Kate was licensed as a Reader by the Bishop of Birmingham at a wonderful and uplifting service at Birmingham Cathedral on Saturday 2nd March 2019.

Members of the congregations from all three of our churches were at the service to support and encourage her and we are looking forward to her ministering along side us and to seeing her ministry develop in the parish.



## Williams Ashton & Anderson Limited

### ACCOUNTANTS

\* **CIS Accounts Preparation**  
(from £220 including VAT)

\* **Accounts Preparation**

\* **Self-Assessment  
Tax Returns**  
(from £75)

\* **Corporation Tax**  
\* **Book Keeping**

*Call Kay for an  
informal discussion*

**Tel: 0121 706 7706**

359 Yardley Rd, Yardley,  
Birmingham B25 8NB

### THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the March winners

**£50 - Eleanor Green    £25 - Heather Bragg**

St John's Church, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B901PW

# COFFEE MORNING

WITH  
HOT CROSS BUN  
TASTING



WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL



10.30 AM

ALL  
WELCOME!

## PAUSE

*Jesus died to show his love  
FOR YOU.*

He gave his life as a demonstration or proof of the love He has for each one of us, no matter who we are or what we have done. He was motivated to lay down His life for us, not out of duty or obligation, but compassionate love.

See Romans Chapter 5 verse 8

## REFLECT

*Jesus died to set YOU free.*

Sin has entangled every one of us. We are under it's power and unable ourselves to loosen its grip.

At the cross Jesus dealt with sin once and for all by dying in our place. Now, when we turn to Him for help, we can be released from the hold it has on us and find complete forgiveness.

Come along to the

# TUESDAY CAFÉ

and invite your friends and  
neighbours to come too

**Refreshments, conversation  
and activities for everyone**

**2pm at Church House on the  
9th and 23rd April**



## THE BEATITUDES - 'BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT'

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes (Matthew Chapter 5 verses 1-12).

The word ***blessed*** describes how we can live under God's blessing. Jesus talks about the '*beautiful attitudes*' (Billy Graham) that characterise followers of Jesus. They speak more about '*who we are*' than '*what we do*' and reflect perfectly the character of Jesus that He wants to develop in us.

*'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'* is the first beatitude (verse 3). To be '*poor in spirit*' is not simply being poor economically, as the word used means '*being dependent on others for support*'. It is the opposite of spiritual pride, recognising that we all fall short of God's standards in our thoughts, words and actions.

It's not just about what we do for God, but what He has done for us through Jesus' death on the cross. As we bring our sin, guilt, shame and failure to Him, in grace He offers us His love, acceptance and forgiveness. We come with empty hands: '*Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to thy cross I cling*' (Augustus Toplady).

This is well illustrated by the tax collector in Jesus' parable: '*God have mercy on me, a sinner*' (Luke Chapter 18 verse 13). It is a cry that says '*O God, I am in a mess. I've got nothing to offer. I haven't begun to pray or hear you properly. I am spiritually poor*'. To those who cry out like this, Jesus says '*theirs is the kingdom of heaven*' (Matthew Chapter 5 verse 3). The kingdom of God flings open its doors to beggars!

*'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more; there is nothing we can do to make God love us less.'* (Philip Yancey: *What's So Amazing About Grace*).

Reverend Paul Hardingham

## REJOICE

***Jesus died to bring YOU home.***

The Cross makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God.

Like the prodigal son we were once far away from God, but now because we have been forgiven, we can return to our true home in God.

A welcome awaits us, and a joy-filled reunion is possible.



an elegant house in  
rural surroundings....

For further information or a viewing  
please contact Glenfield directly  
or visit our website  
[www.glenfieldhouse.co.uk](http://www.glenfieldhouse.co.uk)

**Tel: 01564 823795**



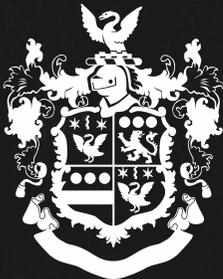
## **A Home from Home in the Countryside**

*Nursing Care for the Elderly in single and shared rooms  
46 Beds overlooking gardens.*

- Experienced nursing care.
- Care staff with N.V.Q. Two & Three.
- Residents activity programme
- Contracted for NHS Continuing Health Care.
- Large gardens with countryside views.
- Easy access to the M42 / Junction 3.
- We pride ourselves in providing a caring and homely environment.
- Our philosophy is to care for our residents as our own parents.
- Excellent CQC report - April 2016

Glenfield House Nursing Home, Middle Lane, Wythall, Birmingham B38 0DG  
Email: [glenfield@live.co.uk](mailto:glenfield@live.co.uk) Fax: 01564 822603

Tree Surgeon



**UMBERSLADE™**  
ARBORICULTURE

Umberslade Arboriculture provides a professional  
Arboricultural and Horticultural service in your area.  
We carry out many services, all of which are fully  
insured, including, but not limited to the following;

- All forms of specialist tree care and management
- Safe and proactive removal of dead or dangerous trees and limbs
- Stump removal
- Tree Preservation Order and Conservation area applications
- Professional hedge maintenance
- Tree and hedge planting
- Leaf litter removal
- Seasoned hardwood logs

If you are interested in a free quote and/or wish to  
discuss how Umberslade Arboriculture services can  
benefit you, please feel free to contact us.

Edward Heinrich FdSc Arboriculture  
[edwardh@umbersladearboriculture.co.uk](mailto:edwardh@umbersladearboriculture.co.uk)  
07776 191 218

## SHAKESPEARE'S BIBLE

On 23rd April, as well as celebrating St George's Day, we remember William Shakespeare who was born on that day in 1564 and died on the same day in 1616. This means that William was alive when the most influential book of all time was published – the King James Bible.

Shakespeare would most commonly have heard the Bishops' Bible read aloud in church every week throughout most of his adult life and he would have read from the Geneva Bible when he was not at church.

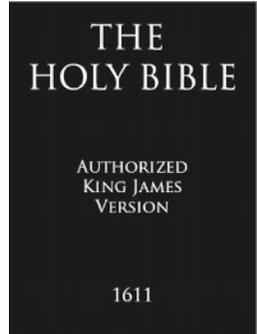
The Geneva Bible was the most popular edition of the Bible for personal reading since it was readily available in cheap, portable versions and it was easy to read with a clear, new font and numbered verses.

It was a Bible for studying as well as for reading and readers were encouraged to read the whole Bible and become familiar with salvation history, as well as the stories, imagery and wisdom which were there to shape their lives.

Most controversially, this edition of the Bible contained annotations that were deemed 'seditious' by James I. The writers of the annotations encouraged obedience to God above obedience to a king and in many places the word 'king' was translated as 'tyrant'.

James' displeasure led to the commissioning of a new edition of the Bible: the Authorised Version of 1611 now commonly known as the King James Bible.

Shakespeare's work is peppered with references to the Bible, and though he had no involvement in the Authorised Version, he knew his Bible well and his work was greatly influenced by it.



Source - <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk>



## C of E COMMITS TO NEXT GENERATION EVANGELISM

The Church of England's General Synod has overwhelmingly called for action with regard to the future of youth evangelism in England, describing the current situation in churches as 'shocking'.

Canon Mark Russell, Chief Executive of the Church Army, revealed that 36% of Anglican congregations *have no one under the age of 16*. Meanwhile only 6% of Church of England churches have more than 25 under 16-year-olds, and most of these are younger children.

The challenges are particularly acute for teenagers, with many churches having none. Yet research suggests 13% of teenagers identify as Christian and many respond positively to the Anglican faith.

The Reverend Leah Vasey-Saunders said her journey to be a vicar was a direct result of joining a local church choir at the age of 18. "We need to take young people seriously. The time to act is now."

The Church of England is making progress, with the appointment of its first Youth Evangelism Officer, Jimmy Dale and its first bishop for evangelism to young people, Bishop Paul Williams.



'We're inviting all people of faith and goodwill to pray for our political leaders and for a fresh and uniting vision for all in our country.'

Archbishops Justin Welby  
and John Sentamu



Find out more at -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/together>

## a prayer for the nation

God of hope,  
in these times of change,  
unite our nation  
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.  
Give us courage to overcome our fears,  
and help us to build a future  
in which all may prosper and share;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



together

## EASTER MORNING : THE 'OTHER' MARY

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first human being actually to meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to Him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it was Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because his resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the male disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they couldn't believe her.



Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

Canon David Winter

## OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK

We have been spared too much cold weather this winter, for which the Food Bank volunteers are very grateful as it is pretty cold in the storage area where we date the incoming donations. We take it in turns to do a stint there, alternating with a stint packing parcels in a partitioned-off area, where there is heating. Fingerless gloves and hot drinks keep us going.



Whilst marking the best before dates, we look out for not only out of date goods but also those close to their best before date, so that we can ensure they are used straight away. We also have to remove anything containing nuts, sometimes obvious (Honey Nut Cornflakes) and sometimes less so (pesto). At least we can easily pick out grapefruit, which cannot be included in the food parcels because it can affect the way some medicines are absorbed. These, together with items such as spices, wraps, vinegar, cans of fizzy drinks (all of which we have seen recently) are put out on display so that the clients can choose for themselves whether to take them.

Once the goods have been dated they are sorted into categories, e.g. meat, fish, pasta, rice, pasta sauces, soup (meat and vegetable), biscuits (sweet and savoury), etc. This is very good for the brain, as the boxes we sort them into are in different places each week! Once this is done, Massis takes them off to the appropriate area for storage until required.

The food parcels are packed in accordance with lists provided by the Trussell Trust, which runs the Food Bank, for varying numbers of people. The shelves in the packing area are loaded with the various items to be included, in order, so it is easy to find what is on the list. Sometimes, however, items in short supply have to be sought amongst the recently received donations, with varying degrees of success. Always in shortest supply are (in no particular order) **tinned fruit, rice pudding, cooking oil, milk and sugar**, with **ryvita** next on the list, whereas baked beans and tinned spaghetti are piled high!



## OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK continued

Nevertheless, we are unendingly grateful for all your generous donations, and thank you for reading your pewslips and coming up with items we particularly mention. They often disappear into parcels as soon as they arrive!

Margaret Barber

P.S. Carol from the Narthex has completely run out of single duvet covers; has anyone a spare hiding in their airing cupboard, please?

Elizabeth Paice



## SOMETHING NEW FOR HOLY WEEK ...



Involving a diverse team of a hundred community actors, musicians and stewards alongside Saltmine Theatre Company, The Birmingham Passion Play 2019 is by the city, for the city.

This unique contemporary retelling of the extraordinary Easter story will be performed live on the streets

of Birmingham, starting at Birmingham Bullring, moving up along New Street to Victoria Square, finishing at St Philip's Cathedral on **Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th April 2019.**

Join us from 12.30pm each day at the Bullring, finishing around 2pm inside St Philip's Cathedral. Everyone is welcome – this is a free non-ticketed event.

Find out more on <https://saltminetrust.org.uk/birminghampassionplay>

## OUR PARISH DIARY FOR APRIL 2019

- 1st 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion  
12.30pm: Lent Lunch at St John's Church  
1.45pm: Lent Group at St John's Church
- 2nd 11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion  
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 3rd Easter Journey at St James Church  
10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion  
2pm: Lent Group at Church House  
7pm: Holy Communion and Guild of St Raphael at St James Church  
7.30pm: Lent Group at 18 Widney Lane
- 6th 10.30am: MU Spring Council Meeting at Carrs Lane Centre

### 7th THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

#### *Sermon Series – Our Worship*

- 10.30am: CTK and St John's Joint Service at Widney School  
7pm: Reflective Worship at St John's Church

- 8th 11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion  
12.30pm: Lent Lunch at St John's Church  
1.45pm: Lent Group at St John's Church
- 9th 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House  
7.30pm: St John's Management Committee Meeting
- 10th 10.30am: Coffee Morning at St John's Church  
11am: Greenhill Way Holy Communion  
2pm: Lent Group at Church House  
7.30pm: Lent Group at 18 Widney Lane
- 11th 3.30pm: Messy Church at Widney School

### 14th PALM SUNDAY

#### *Liturgy of the Palms, Procession and reading of the Passion*

- 9am: St John's Church  
10am: St James Church  
10.30am: Christ the King Church  
11.30am: The Friends of St James Walking Group

- 15th 7.30pm: Compline at St James Church



## OUR PARISH DIARY FOR APRIL 2019 continued

- 16th 10.30am: Mason House Holy Communion  
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House  
**7.30pm: Stations of the Cross at St James Church**
- 17th 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion  
**7.30pm: Worship in the Celtic Tradition at St John's Church**
- 18th **7.30pm: Liturgy of MAUNDY THURSDAY including the Watch at the Garden of Repose at St James Church**
- 19th **GOOD FRIDAY**  
**10.30am: Walk of Witness starts at Our Lady of the Wayside Church**  
**11am: Service of Witness at St James Church**  
**1pm: Meditation at St James Church**  
**2pm: Liturgy of the Passion at St James Church**  
**7pm: Taize Style Reflection Service at Widney School**
- 20th 10am: Messy Church at Church House
- 21st EASTER SUNDAY**  
**6am: Sunrise Service at St John's Church**  
**8am: Holy Communion at St James Church**  
**9am: Holy Communion at St John's Church**  
**10am: Holy Communion at St James Church**  
**10.30am: All Age Communion at Christ the King Church**
- 23rd ST GEORGE  
2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
- 24th 4pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church  
7.30pm: Annual Parochial Church Meeting at St James Church
- 25th ST MARK
- 28th THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**
- 30th 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House



## MAY 2019 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Friday 12th April  
PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 27th April

## CHURCHYARD MATTERS

Spring has sprung early this year and the churchyard has come alive with snowdrops, hellebores, cherry blossom and, of course, daffodils.

The urgent safety work on the trees has been completed on the Stratford Road boundary and routine maintenance of our valuable, mature trees is an on-going project.

The mowing season is almost upon us and we are fortunate to have obtained two robust mulching mowers (one careful user!). The job is heavy, given the area to be covered, the uneven ground and many obstacles and our volunteers need proper kit.

There are many other tasks, strimming or trimming around graves, sweeping paths, litter picking, weeding in the formal garden, dealing with dips in the ground, putting salt on weeds between paving stones. Not all of these are heavy and anyone who would like to help would be very welcome to join the team. Many hands make light work!

We plan our usual Saturday working party later in the Spring and the date will be announced in the pewslip. The Sea Cadets always lend a hand with this and their help is invaluable, especially in ensuring that the war graves are well tended. We will also have some volunteer Scouts helping us on a Thursday evening from late April.

If you are interested in any aspect of this project, please contact Kate Crocker (0121 258 2956). It would be good to have a regular day and time when a few people come together to work in the churchyard. This gives us both improved safety and the pleasure of fellowship.



With so much maintenance needed, it is easy to overlook how fortunate we are to have this beautiful, historic place as part of our church. 'To work is to pray' might be our motto as we give thanks for God's two acres in Shirley and the abundant life in them, while trying to find the best way of sustaining our churchyard.

Kate Crocker

## HELPERS NEEDED AT 'JIMMY TOTS'

Jimmy Tots is held at Church House on Friday morning during term time for young children, accompanied by one or two of their carers.

Unfortunately, there are not always enough helpers for this very important play group. Due to sickness or holidays the existing helpers are finding it more difficult to maintain the number of people needed to run this group.

There must be some people in the community that would be willing to commit one and half hours once a month to help these long-standing leaders out. Don't all rush together but please get in touch with Jane Cook who will explain more. Jane's telephone number is 0121 744 2072 or Pauline Mason 0121 706 0555.



**PUT THIS  
on YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

our  
**SUMMER FETE**  
will be on  
**SATURDAY 15th JUNE**



The vicar had assured the verger that the clock repairers had promised to come as soon as possible

## A BIG 'THANK YOU'

Dear friends,

I would like to say a big thank you to all who sent me cards for my 90th birthday. It is a joy to keep in touch with old friends for birthdays and Christmas. There have been many compliments of how lovely all the cards are and they have brightened my room for many days.



I had two wonderful days – the family had Sunday lunch at the George Hotel in Solihull and Monday here with Linda, a few friends and residents. We had some entertainment here during the afternoon followed by a buffet tea.

Love to you all, Audrey Turley



## Story Box



Come and join us every other Thursday during term time for a story followed by playtime and colouring!  
From 2.15pm until 3.00pm  
Dickens Heath Library

### NEXT DATES

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

April 11<sup>th</sup>

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> (last session before Summer Holidays)

For more information please speak to a member of staff or call the library on 0121 744 6078.



## COMING NEXT MONTH ...

The Friends of St James invite you to a

# Coffee Morning

and Bric-a-Brac Sale with cakes, raffle, books etc.

Saturday 4th May 2019 at 10.30am in Church House

The Friends are now collecting Bric-a-Brac, books etc. for this event and would welcome your contributions, which may be left in the Parish Office. Also, we would welcome cakes for the cake stall on the day of the Coffee Morning, please.

*Don't forget to come along and support us on the day!  
See you there!*

## DEMENTIA INFORMATION AFTERNOON

I am sure we all know someone who has dementia. Perhaps you are struggling to care for someone, perhaps you have made the painful decision for a loved one to live in a nursing home because the disease has got so bad. Perhaps you have a friend who is a carer.

Here's a date for your diary. On **Wednesday 8th May at 2pm** Rachel Christophers will be coming to Church House to talk about dementia. She will talk about how we have conversations with people with dementia, how we relate to them, how we can best care for them and how we can support those who are caring for loved ones.

Rachel will speak from personal experience. Her husband, Theo, died recently after suffering from dementia for many years. She will talk of the pains and joys of accompanying him on that journey. She will address emotional, practical and spiritual issues

So come along and find out more. Whether you are supporting someone with dementia, or supporting a carer, or just interested.

It will be a stimulating afternoon and may well lead to the churches in Shirley Parish working together in some way to support carers or those with dementia.

## EASTER TRIVIA

### ***What was the largest ever Easter egg hunt?***

The most-ever entrants for an egg hunt competition was 12,773. It was The Fabergé Big Egg Hunt, as part of World Record London, in London in April 2012.

### ***What was the largest-ever decorated Easter egg?***

This was built in March 2008, by Freeport in Alcochete, Portugal. It measured 14.79 m (48 ft 6 in) long and 8.40 m (27 ft 6 in) in diameter.

### ***What was the largest ever chocolate Easter egg?***

It was made in Tosca (Italy) and weighed 7,200 kg (15,873 lbs 4.48 oz). It had a circumference of 19.6 m (64 ft 3.65 in) at its widest point. It was exhibited in a shopping centre in Cortenuova, Italy, in April 2011.

### ***What was the largest ever Easter egg tree?***

This was set by Zoo Rostock GmbH, Rostock, Germany, who decorated a tree with 76,596 painted hens' eggs in April 2007.

### ***What about the most expensive hot cross bun?***

This was baked in 1829 in Stepney, London. It was bought by Bill Foster for £155 at the Antiques for Everyone show at the NEC in Birmingham in April 2000. Hot cross buns were originally made to hang in the kitchen to ward off evil spirits.

### ***What was the biggest-ever (real) Easter bunny?***

So far, the longest rabbit was Darius, a Flemish giant rabbit owned by Annette Edwards. It was 4 ft 3 in (129 cm) long when measured for an article in the Daily Mail newspaper in April 2010.



## PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Surgery and Home Visits

JONATHAN LEESE D.Pod.M., M.Ch.

HPC REGISTERED

Tel: 0121 733 1292

193 Creynolds Lane, Shirley B90 4ES

Flowers and Plants for Every Occasion



## Vi STEVENS LTD



*Floral Designers*

Personal Attention to All your Floral Requirements

391 Stratford Road, Shirley. Tel: 0121 745 5847 [www.vistevensflorist.co.uk](http://www.vistevensflorist.co.uk)



Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James

*Nurture, Learn, Achieve*

For details about the school contact the  
**Executive Principal for Primary : Miss S. Deakin**

Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James, Halifax Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 2BT  
Phone : 0121 744 7897 [office@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk) [www.stjames.tgacademy.org.uk](http://www.stjames.tgacademy.org.uk)

## MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

Fully qualified **LADIES AND GENTLEMENS** Hairdresser

Available for appointments in the comfort  
of your own home

Please Telephone **CLAIRE** on  
**01564 794684 or 07931 751 451**

## Decorating Plus ... (Odd Jobs)

B90 and nearby

Call **Stewart** on **07802 566 441** or **0121 744 2804**

( Another Local Handyman ! )

You will receive reliable and trustworthy work with and by **Healy Fencing & Landscaping**; being a family run business we pride ourselves on guaranteeing you communication, quality and, most importantly, a friendly service.

**Services provided -**

Garden Maintenance | Fencing & Gates (Timber, Mesh, Metal & Green Screens) | Decking (Timber & Composite) | Patios | Turfing | Artificial Turfing | LivePicture GO Installation  
For those of you who don't like fencing and would rather a greener alternative, Healy Fencing & Landscaping have the solution for you being the only Green Screen provider in the area.

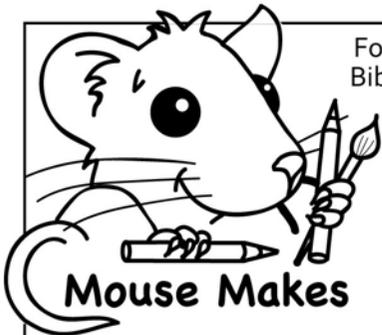
For your **Free No Obligation Quote** contact **Connor** via:

0121 218 3879 | 07599 612399 | [Enquiries@healyfencing.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@healyfencing.co.uk) | [www.healyfencing.co.uk](http://www.healyfencing.co.uk)

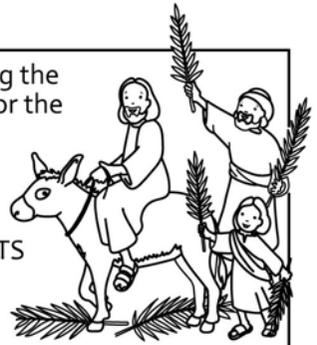
Facebook: [@HealyFencingLandscaping](https://www.facebook.com/HealyFencingLandscaping)



**HEALY**  
Fencing & Landscaping



Follow the **Easter story** using the Bible references, then look for the words in the puzzle.



### Into Jerusalem

read *Matthew 21:1-11*

DONKEY • ROAD • COATS  
BRANCHES • PALMS  
KING • HOSANNA

### Mouse Makes



### The Last Supper

read

*Matthew 26:17-30*

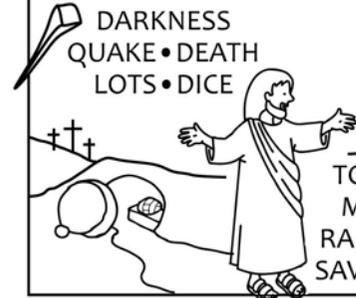
TWELVE DISCIPLES  
PASSOVER  
ROOM • BREAD  
WINE • SON • MAN  
BODY • BLOOD  
CUP • MEAL



### Betrayal and Death

read *Matthew 26:36-27:56*

GETHSEMANE  
PRAY • BETRAY  
KISS • ARREST  
MESSIAH • CHRIST  
SON • ACCUSED  
CRUCIFY • JESUS  
CROWN • THORNS  
ROBE • TREE  
NAILS • CROSS  
DARKNESS  
QUAKE • DEATH  
LOTS • DICE



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

### Burial and Resurrection

read *Matthew 27:57-28:20*

TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS  
MORNING • MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • LORD • GOD  
RAISED • JOY • GO TELL • GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT  
SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER • I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

## WORDSEARCH - EASTER 2019

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!  
Hallelujah!

April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year.

As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life.



angel  
betrayal  
blood  
body  
bread  
cross  
crucifixion  
curtain  
gardener  
gethsemane  
jerusalem  
judas  
mary  
nails  
passover  
pilate  
risen  
soldiers  
stone  
temple  
tomb  
trial  
vinegar  
wine

*Answers are on page 29*



## CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

### Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)  
 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)  
 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — '  
 (Luke 8:54) (3,2)  
 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai  
 (Exodus 32:4) (4)  
 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)  
 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)  
 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or  
 understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)  
 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)  
 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ'  
 (Philippians 3:7) (4)  
 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)  
 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)  
 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

### Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)  
 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)  
 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)  
 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)  
 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)  
 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)  
 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)  
 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes  
 (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)  
 14 See cape (anag.) (7)  
 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)  
 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin  
 (Joel 1:12) (5)  
 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)



# eglc EARLSWOOD<sup>®</sup>

## GARDEN & LANDSCAPE CENTRE

Specialists in Fencing, Gates, Sheds & Paving but with everything you could need for your garden or driveway with a team of friendly, expert staff on hand to give advice.



\* **Best ever plant centre with fresh stock arriving daily**

\* **Comprehensive range of garden products**

\* **Lovely Coffee Shop by Wedges Bakery**

### EARLSWOOD GARDEN & LANDSCAPE CENTRE

FORSHAW HEATH ROAD, EARLSWOOD, SOLIHULL, B94 5JU  
*Next to Earlswood train station. Just 2 minutes from junction 3 of the M42 (signposted)*

t. 01564 702 314 e. [info@earlswoodglc.co.uk](mailto:info@earlswoodglc.co.uk) www.earlswoodglc.co.uk



## The Roof Repair Co.

Leaking roof



### From A Minor Repair To A New Roof

- ✓ NEW ROOFS
- ✓ NEW FLAT ROOF SYSTEMS
- ✓ RIDGE TILES REPOINTED & REBEDDED
- ✓ GUTTERING - UPVC CLADDING
- ✓ NO MONEY UP FRONT
- ✓ TOP QUALITY MATERIALS
- ✓ SENIOR CITIZENS DISCOUNTS

Guttering  
 Repaired &  
 Cleaned Out  
 from £25

Registered with Age Concern

Repairs  
 from as  
 little as  
 £35

FREE QUOTATION Without Obligation

FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**0121 604 2104 / 07956 228 842**



Mobile: 07783 966 749

Delicious cakes for any occasion (including vegetarian)

Formerly Mrs M's Cakes



## Bill Boyce - Decorators

ALL TYPES OF PAINTING, DECORATING AND GLAZING  
Free Estimates

89 Union Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 3BY

Telephone: 0121 744 0040

Email: billboycedecorators@hotmail.co.uk

www.billboycedecorators.co.uk

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

### PUZZLE ANSWERS



boinsuislacytu  
umogardenerwrv  
iloedbyaeaggi  
xaetuelmfinea  
xynhignosdeear  
nansplsiogurri  
uraeaeegsadtibr  
ntimscprotatee  
melasurejreen  
absnoixificurc  
rltevuedasaicb  
elpmetallipsaoi  
asuerstonendno  
bsarnsisneysib

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

## SIGNS & SYMBOLS : HOLY OIL

Oils and creams loom large in the Bible just as they do in our world today.

We use healing creams for all sorts of ailments, and moisturising lotions to soothe, but also often for the pure sensual pleasure that they give us. What can be better than your favourite hand cream after time spent gardening?

Oils in church are just the same. Set aside for specific works: for healing, encouraging at times of change and uncertainty, and for the special purposes of people, places and objects.

The Holy Oils are blessed (and one is consecrated) each year, usually on Maundy Thursday in Holy Week. This is done by the Bishop at a special annual service in every cathedral with all the clergy in the Diocese. It's an amazingly colourful and meaningful service which if you ever have the opportunity to attend do go.

These oils are then distributed to every parish priest for use in their area. At the end of a year they are poured into the earth and replaced with the new year's Holy Oils.



Reverend Dr Jo White

## EASTER PRAYER OF THANKS

Gracious, loving Father,

Thank you for the wonderful reality of Jesus' resurrection on that first Easter Day.

Thank you that, because Jesus is alive, life has meaning and purpose.

When we don't understand why some things happen, when life is difficult, when we are struggling through pain and loss, help us to know your risen presence and love in our lives.

Help us to choose to trust you.

Help us always to be thankful for your amazing Easter gift of life and hope.

In Jesus name,

Amen

Daphne Kitching

## PARISH REGISTERS

### ST JAMES' BAPTISMS

March	3rd	Lexi-Rose Stanley Esme Grace Rutter
	24th	Clara Mavis Hardcastle Ella Louise Carter

### PARISH FUNERALS

March	4th	Brenda Margaret Holland	85
	4th	Winifred Ravenhall	94
	6th	David John Brennan	76
	7th	Marguerie Rose Hague	70
	14th	Christine Hart	75
	15th	Patricia Brenda Pettinger	78
	20th	Reginald Allan Peach	87

## Elizabeth House

*Elizabeth Grove, Off Union Road,  
Shirley, Solihull, B90 3BX*

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME WITH A  
"HOMELY TOUCH" FOR OLDER PEOPLE

- ✓ Small caring home
- ✓ Stands in quiet grove in its own pleasant grounds
- ✓ A short walk from Shirley town centre.
- ✓ Emphasis is on a homely atmosphere where residents feel safe & secure
- ✓ Dignity & privacy are respected
- ✓ Staff trained to provide individual needs
- ✓ Individual dietary requirements are met
- ✓ Friends & families are always encouraged to visit & join in the programme of entertainments, worship & other activities

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & BROCHURE  
TELEPHONE 0121 744 2753**

# COZY TOES

Bev Hughes DipCFhp

Mobile Foot Health Practitioner

07764636468 or

0121 451 3586



OFFERING A FRIENDLY,  
RELIABLE PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE AT AFFORDABLE PRICE

OVER 65 £15.00 PER SESSION  
UNDER 65 £18.00 PER SESSION

## TREATMENT INCLUDES:-

- FREE CONSULTATION
- TOENAILS CUT &  
THICKNESS REDUCED
- CALLOUSES REMOVED
- CORNS & VERRUCAS  
TREATED
- DIABETIC FOOT CARE

## ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN THIS MAGAZINE

should reach the

**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](mailto: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

***Please contact us if you would like the magazine regularly***

*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.*

**Printed by Prontaprint, Solihull : 0121 705 9988**