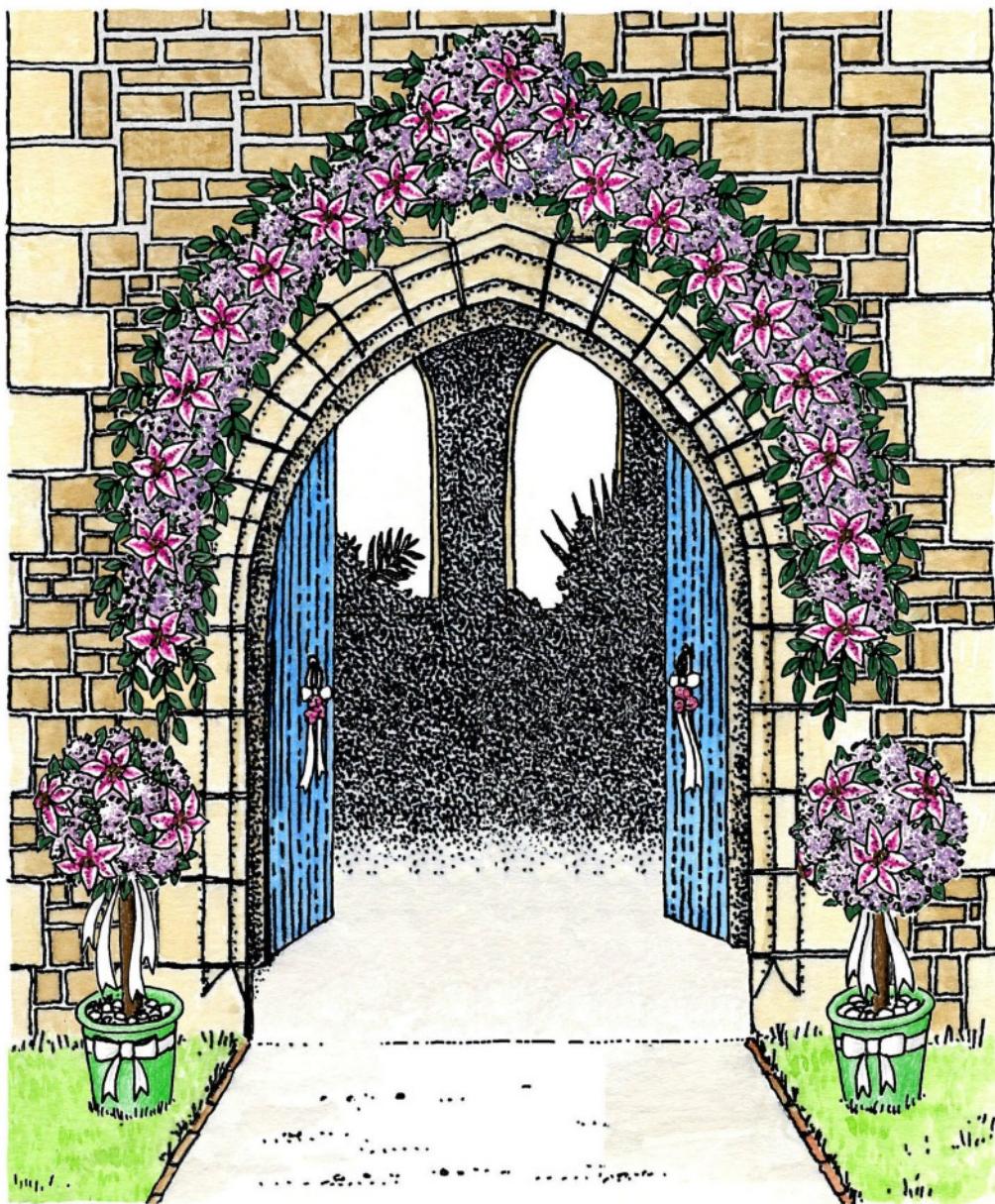


Shirley Parish Magazine

July & August 2021



SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE

CLERGY

Vicar - Reverend Paul Day

18 Widney Lane, Solihull B91 3LS

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134 Shakespeare Drive, Shirley B90 2AR

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SHIRLEY PARISH



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Telephone: 0121 745 8896

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Parish Website: <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk>

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

facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/ShirleyParishB90>

Services on the telephone: 0121 798 0196

OUR PARISH PRAYERS



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

THANK YOU

We are not sure if we are coming to an end of restrictions but whether we are or not we wish to thank all the people from all three churches who have offered to act as stewards during the last few months. Without these people we would not have been unable to worship as often as we have for, they are the ones that kept the church open by wiping down doors and pews etc. each week. So, on behalf of all parishioners and two grateful Parish Wardens a huge 'thank you'.



And also, a big thank you to all those who have contributed in any way to the Church House back garden project. We are looking forward to the official opening, the date of which will be announced in the weekly Pew Slip.



COVID UPDATE

Following the Government announcement on 14th June about step 4 of the Roadmap not coming into effect until 19th July, we will continue with the current arrangements of booking attendance at services until then. Numbers in all three churches will be restricted according to those we can accommodate in a Covid secure way. The main Sunday service from one of the churches will be live streamed each week. We hope that the first "unrestricted" service we will be able to have will be the Parish service on Sunday 25th July (see notice elsewhere in the magazine).

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the June winners

£50 - Gary Allport £25 - Susan Knight

SEPTEMBER 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY

Thursday 12th August

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

I was somewhat bemused to see pictures of Boris Johnson arriving in Cornwall on a private jet plane for the recent G7 summit. Bemused because as he emerged from the plane he was talking about building back better, fairer and greener following the Covid pandemic. There are surely greener ways to travel from London to Cornwall than by plane. Our actions often speak louder than our words. It can be a real challenge to change the way we do things to ensure we are caring for the world around us.

In the Parish we set aside the 26th-27th June as a Climate Change weekend – an opportunity to think about the way we live and the effect it has on the environment. I am writing this article before the weekend, but I fully expect you to be reading it after it has happened.



One of the messages I know the team were hoping to get across was that everything we do – no matter how small – can make a difference. Part of the Sunday service was for each of us to fill in a pledge card to do one more thing to help the environment. I hope you were able to make such a pledge – why not tell us all about it and how you are getting on by writing something for the magazine. I hope as well that you found the service – and all the displays that were around St James over the weekend – helpful and interesting.

The environment is a focus of much of what we are doing in the Parish at the moment and caring for the creation is one of our priorities. The work that the dedicated team do week by week in the St James Churchyard; the bird feeding and wild area at St John's; the launch of Forest Church – read elsewhere in the magazine about how Jean Wall experienced this; the nature count identifying the huge variety of species of grass, flower, lichen, insects and more in the Churchyard; the return of Messy Church in person on June 19th taking a look at how we care for the world; and of course the Climate Change weekend with its displays and challenges.

All of these activities are ways that help us look after the wonderful world that God has created. He has given us the responsibility of caring for his creation – may this be reflected not just in what we say but also in what we do.

Reverend Paul Day



PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY - SUNDAY 25th JULY

We will be celebrating three things in a Parish Service at St James Church on Sunday 25th July at 10.30am.

First – it is the feast day of St James – always a good opportunity to celebrate

Second – we will be giving thanks for Kevin Gill's long service as organist and wishing him well in his retirement

And third – we will be welcoming Peter and Kate Law-Jones back to say that proper farewell that we never quite managed last Spring.

We hope that the Covid restrictions will be fewer and that we can have more people in church and also have some kind of shared lunch afterwards – please keep your eyes open for further information! We will also be live streaming the service.



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WHAT IS FOREST CHURCH?

I had heard this question many times over the previous few weeks but on May 30th we found out.

It is worshipping God in the open air, surrounded by the beauty of His Creation, in spite of being so near a huge city.

At St John's the church is surrounded by a wide variety of trees - all different shapes, sizes and colours. My ever-fertile imagination felt that we were in a clearing in part of a forest. That imagination could not stretch to Tilehouse Lane being a babbling brook – more like a rushing torrent as the traffic sped past, but the intervals of quiet allowed us to hear the birds singing before they went to roost for the night.

We were encouraged to walk around the grounds, feel the trees, the bark, the leaves, the grass and to take in the smells of the open air. We even had the chance to hug a tree, if that brought us nearer to its strength.



During the year we had to have some trees cut back and we found logs that showed the growth rings of the tree, from which experts can work out the history of the tree, during good and poor growing conditions. We were given a print of a similar cut surface and invited to map out our own “growth” through good times and not so good times. Quite a challenging exercise – finished off at home. Don't be put off, it was an interesting thing to do.

Finally, we offered our prayers, turning to the four points of the compass, giving our thanks and praise for the beauty surrounding us. It was also good to praise Him in song as we were outside.



We were so lucky with the weather – it was perfect and the introduction of “Forest Church” was so special – why not find out for yourself by joining us on **August 29th** in St James Churchyard (whatever the weather) and share the beauty of God's Creation.

Jean Wall

ECO-CHURCHYARD GROUP AT ST JAMES

During the first lockdown in April/May 2020 when everywhere was shut, including churches, I found myself wandering up to St James' grounds, walking around, saying my prayers. I never realised how beautiful the church grounds were, even though very overgrown with no one being able to tidy and mow them.

I saw Reverend Paul and offered my help. He told me there was a group of very kind people who met once a week, some coming and mowing up to three times a week, and he'd put me in touch with them.

Lockdown eased. And I had an email asking me and my husband if we would like to meet on Thursday morning to help with gardening. We went along and had such fun with a small group of people tidying, digging, mowing, strimming, removing dead flower wreaths, clearing leaves and branches, and weeding – especially the large path!

Did anyone know or think who kept the church grounds so beautiful? I was amazed how much had to be done.

Great things are happening now in the grounds as life is starting to get back to normal (ish) – more to do with making the churches and grounds eco-friendly places. A wildlife area and nature watches are being arranged and new trees are being planted.

Pam Owen

Would you like to take part in caring for the St James churchyard, or the St John's garden? Or maybe join our Eco group, which takes a lead on caring for God's beautiful creation in many other ways as well. If so, please contact the Parish Office (0121 745 8896) and they will put you in touch!



THE WELCOME CAFÉ

As soon as we are able, hopefully in July, we want to re-open our café in Church House. There will be a few changes apart from the new name. The café will now be open on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 11.30am and will be open every week.

We would like you all to feel that it is a place where you can pop in for ten minutes for a cuppa (and cake) or stay for the full hour and a half. Hopefully a place where we can all get to know each other a bit better. And any friends you bring with you, or local people who also pop in. Some weeks there may be a craft activity or perhaps something like bingo, but there is no pressure to join in, although winning chocolate can be good.



At the moment we are looking for people to help with making the tea and coffee, and baking cakes. We discovered at Christmas what a wealth of cake makers there are in the Parish, and what a variety of things they make. If you can help, please contact one of us and let us know what you can do.

It would be great if we could sign up to the 'Places of welcome' initiative which means that we commit to being open at the same time every week, to providing tea and a biscuit without charge, and there being someone who is happy to chat.

Keep watching the Pew Slip to find out when we are opening the café doors again.

Jan, Pat and Sarah

PS. If you can help let one of us know or give Sarah a ring (0121 681 1525)



PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

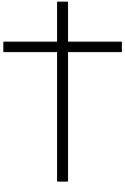
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*...just humour him - he's hoping it'll
help him reach the young people in his diocese...*

FOOD & CLOTHING BANKS & ADAVU

FOOD BANK: sadly, the numbers of clients are expected to rise during the summer school holidays. If you are in a position to help, dried milk, UHT orange juice and instant mash would be very welcome - but please NO cereals or pasta!



CLOTHING BANK at the Narthex: Sandra and her team cannot know from one day to the next what will be needed. If a destitute family with six children applies for clothing, her supplies for a particular age can be wiped out. And that's when I put an appeal in the weekly Pew Slip knowing that you will respond quickly if you are able. The appeal for children's shoes was an example - a wonderful response - many thanks. At the moment the appeal is for men's new underwear, small and medium sizes.

A huge 'Thank You' to all the folks who cleared out their airing cupboards during Lockdown and donated surplus bedding and curtains. Most of it went to Sparkhill Narthex but I was also able to send a carload to Spring House, a charity specialising in homeless folks. NOTHING GOES TO WASTE IN THIS HOUSE!!

ADAVU: this started in 2011 as a project of Birmingham Methodist District. The founders had set up the Regional Anti-Trafficking network in 2008. They soon realised that there was a huge lack of long-term support for survivors. By 2014 they were having at least five enquiries per month from agencies and community groups who wanted advice about the right type of support for each survivor and from this evolved the current set up which we support through the toiletries and Christmas appeals (plus the occasional Emergency Appeal, such as the recent request for new-born baby prams). There are two experienced Support Workers plus Liisa as the skilled Project Manager to help thirty women (usually women) rescued from trafficking in the West Midlands. Plus, a volunteer Befriending Scheme.



Already we have been alerted to the Christmas Party date (December 16th 2021) - a gentle alert to my wonderful/talented team of volunteers who supply over 300 cakes for the dessert and take home treats ...

FOOD & CLOTHING BANKS & ADAVU continued

In the meantime, I am always on the scrounge for toiletries (basic is fine) which Sarah Penfold is happy to receive.

Last Christmas the adults loved the toiletry bags but for the children especially the boys it was the torches and the small, knitted dinosaurs which turned out to be the great success.

If anyone knows the identity of the knitter of the dinosaurs, please ask her/him to contact me. Or if anyone else would like to have a go ... it's very challenging to find low cost presents which excite small boys.



Best wishes to you all, *Elizabeth Paice*

WAYS OF DONATING MONEY TO THE FOOD BANK

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Hay Hall Road, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2AQ

Online - <https://sparkhillfoodbank.enthuse.com/Donate/>

NATIONAL THANK YOU DAY - Sunday 4th July

Covid-19 has had a devastating impact on so many people, and it's tested us in ways we never expected. But for many of us, it has also brought us closer together. Closer to our families and to our communities.

As a country we aren't always great at saying thank you to each other. But this year, we want to be part of changing that. To choose one day where we all pause to say thank you to each other. To remember what binds us together, not just what pushes us apart. We all have different people to thank, from family members to key workers, good neighbours to volunteers.

You can find out more at
<https://thankyouday.org.uk/>





P-R-A-Y

'Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.' 1 Chronicles 16:11 NIV

To help you remember the four parts of prayer, think of the acrostic P-R-A-Y:

P – Praise the Lord! Not sure how? Think you'll run out of words? Not if you use the Scriptures. David gives us a beautiful example in 1 Chronicles 29:11-13. It's one you can use: 'Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour...Yours, Lord, is the kingdom...In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name' (NIVUK).

R – Repent of your sins! Just as heat forces impurities to the surface so the metal refiner can remove them, your prayer time will reveal attitudes that must be changed, habits that must be broken, and barriers to blessing that must be removed. It's not enough to tell God about your sins. He already knows them. You must ask Him to help you turn away from them. This is true repentance.

A – Ask for yourself and others! Your prayers invite God into the situation, and your faith activates His power to change it. There's no distance in prayer, no culture or language barrier it can't overcome. It's like throwing on a power switch – things begin to move when we pray. Jesus said, 'I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven...whatever doors you open on earth shall be open in heaven' (Matthew 16:19 TLB).

Y – Yield yourself to God's will! Declaring the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your life is like signing your name to the bottom of a blank cheque and inviting Him to fill in the amount.

Taken from 'UCB Word for Today' written by Bob and Debby Gass - a daily devotional which is available free.

Address: United Christian Broadcasters Operations Centre, Westport Road, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 4JF. Website: <https://www.ucb.co.uk/>

PRIORITISING

Martha cooked
But Mary looked
And sat at the Master's feet,
It's a story of old
But we are told
It's where man and God can meet.

So much to do
But think it through
There's a place for you and me,
To spend time with the Lord
And be found in His word
It's where we are meant to be.

So find a place
To seek His face
Where the Lord Himself is found
With a God who cares
Hears all our prayers
The place where grace abounds.

By Megan Carter



Luke : Chapter 10 verses 38 - 42

GREEN REFLECTIONS



Green Reflections: biblical inspiration for sustainable living

By Martin Hodson and Margot Hodson

BRF £8.99

How should we look after the world we inhabit? This book combines scientific and theological wisdom to offer 62 reflections inspired by passages from the Bible in a thoughtful exploration that encourages both reflection and response. Themes include The Wisdom of Trees, Landscapes of Promise and Sharing Resources.

THE SPACES BETWEEN

Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don't know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help.

The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be 'listened to'. Really listened to. But it is not easy to find someone who will 'actively listen' to you.

Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don't clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens.

He doesn't necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life's challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible.

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to 'nudge' the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

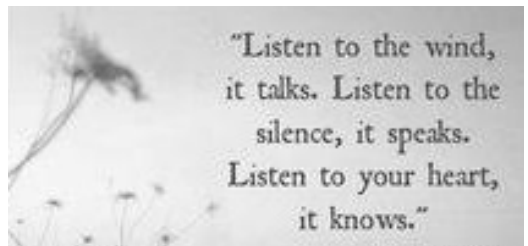
So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

This month:

Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken.

Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.



TIME FOR A CHANGE

I have had my walking boots for a few years now, and they have been faithful companions. We have walked many miles together during that time, on my daily walks as well as on holiday. They are partly responsible for my physical recovery after Covid-19, so they have a place in my heart. They fit me very well, and we have adjusted to one another. But they are very thin now on the soles and heels, and it is reluctantly time for a change.

So, one recent Saturday I bought a new pair. They are clean and smart, and fully waterproof. The soles are strong and new. There are no signs of wear and tear. But I know that change is never easy. They will take some time to wear in. They may rub and I may get a blister or two. Occasionally I will long for my old boots, and wonder, 'Did I make a mistake?' Hopefully, they will become as much a part of me as my old ones as we tread the miles together. But there is always a risk with something new, Isn't there?

Change is never easy in whatever form it comes. But change is inevitable because life does not stand still, and we have to keep adjusting and adapting and being open to fresh winds of the Spirit. Never more so than in these present, troublesome days.

Strangely enough as I have been meditating on this, my reading this morning (Isaiah 9) contained a reference to 'Every warrior's boot used in battle ... will be destined for burning (v5).' Oh dear. I'm sure like me, warriors were fond of their boots too and found it hard to part with them.

Tony Horsfall

Come and join us for

**COFFEE
& CAKE**



**Wednesday 14th July at 10.30am
in St John's Church Garden**

OUR SERVICES IN JULY

Date	Time	Service	Venue
1st	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
4th	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
	6pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Garden
8th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
11th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church
15th	10.30am	Healing Service with Communion and the opportunity for prayers for healing	St James Church
17th	10am	Messy Church	
18th	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
25th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Parish Service	St James Church
29th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church

My last service as Organist of St James will be on Sunday 25th July. It will be nice to see as many people as possible at my final service. Kevin Gill

One of the main Sunday services will be live-streamed onto YouTube, Facebook and the phonenumber (0121 798 0196) and can also be watched/listened to once the service is finished.

Copies of the sermons can be found on our website -
<https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/download-a-sermon>

Please check the website or the weekly Pew Slip to see if you need to phone the Parish Office (0121 745 8896) to book for a service.

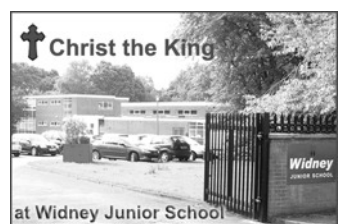
OUR SERVICES IN AUGUST

Date	Time	Service	Venue
1st	9am 10.30am 10.30am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Reflective Worship	St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church St John's Garden
5th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
8th	8am 9am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship Morning Worship Holy Communion	St James Church St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church
12th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
15th	9am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship	St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church
19th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
21st	10am	Messy Church	
22nd	8am 9am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship Morning Worship Holy Communion	St James Church St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church
26th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
29th	10.30am 6pm	Parish Service Forest Church	St James Church St James Churchyard

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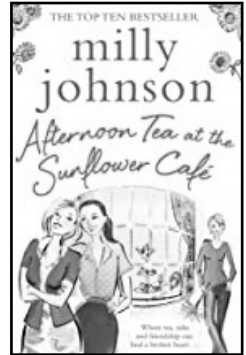
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**St John's Church garden
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SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

'From healthy eating to a fish and chip supper'

Our most recent read was *Afternoon Tea at the Sunflower Café* by Milly Johnson and this comparison in the title between healthy eating and fish and chip suppers is how one of our members described her experience of the novel. She (Margaret J) thinks that while most of our Book Club choices make us think, others are more about entertainment than challenge. The Milly Johnson novel fits into the fast food category. Easy to get into, not hard work and once you start reading you're there.



Ursula calls the novel, 'a quick easy holiday read - not much thought needed. I found it difficult to like the characters at the start and then found the ending just too cliched and predictable. Downtrodden wife gets own back on cheating husband and finds true love in the process; cheating husband realises he loves his wife too late and tries to make a new start once he has lost all; good girl loses all her money then inherits an unexpected fortune, saves the day and finds a new love; spinster with unrequited love for the cheating husband gets vicious revenge. The most interesting character I found was Astrid, but the ending does leave one question - what became of Ivanka after the cheating husband dumped her? Sorry, not a brilliant review but that is how I read it and life would be dull if we all liked the same books.'

Pat found this novel 'grating ... readable and straightforward but a sad reflection of our society'. Sarah felt that she would never have picked this book in a shop or a library - the title and cover picture gave it an air of Mills and Boon but concluded that the novel 'turned out to be a story of women working together to take control of their lives in the face of lousy men. Luckily not all the men are lousy, and the scones are rather good.'

Like many of us, Jill found a good deal to enjoy in the novel and it turns out that Sue G has read several Milly Johnson novels already and has found that 'her books are very readable, with humour and pathos. I think she writes female characters better than male, and although the stories usually end up happily and problems are resolved, they are not "fairy stories". One of the pleasures of her books are the locations she features which are where we once lived so are familiar and recognizable (even though she changes some names).'

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB continued

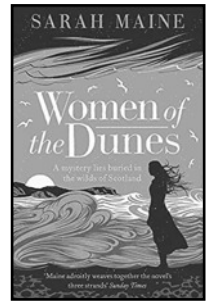
Meryl found the novel, 'short and sweet ... a really enjoyable read. Entertaining, funny, loved the descriptions of the characters and their voices. A good pace to the plot with lots of different back stories to make up a whole. It was nice to read something that wasn't about death and heart searching messages. A pleasant distraction.'

And Sue H found it an easy, relaxing read. 'The characters were a bit stereotypical I thought, but the plot moved along smoothly, a bit like a soap opera on television. I found the latter part of the book the best bit. It was quite an entertaining read.'

In short, no one was offended, and everyone was entertained.

Having heard that the recent winner of the Waterstone's Scottish Fiction Ward, Sarah Maine, is gathering quite a following among our members we are suggesting that our group embark on either, *The House Between Tides* (if they haven't already experienced this wonderful novel) or, if they have, to try a second Sarah Maine novel, *Women of the Dunes*.

Ray Speakman



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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

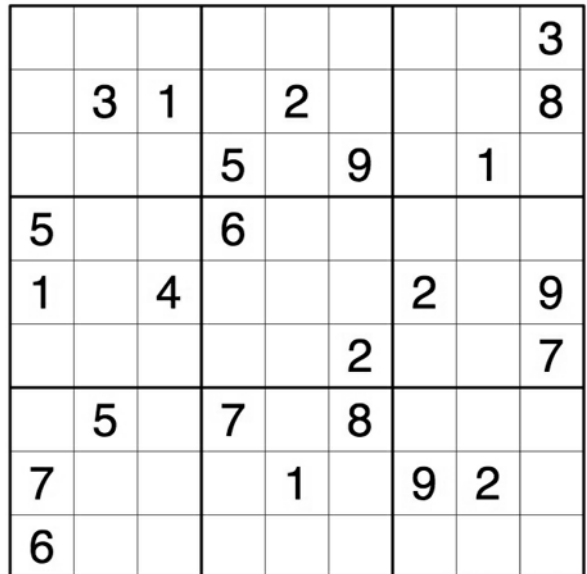
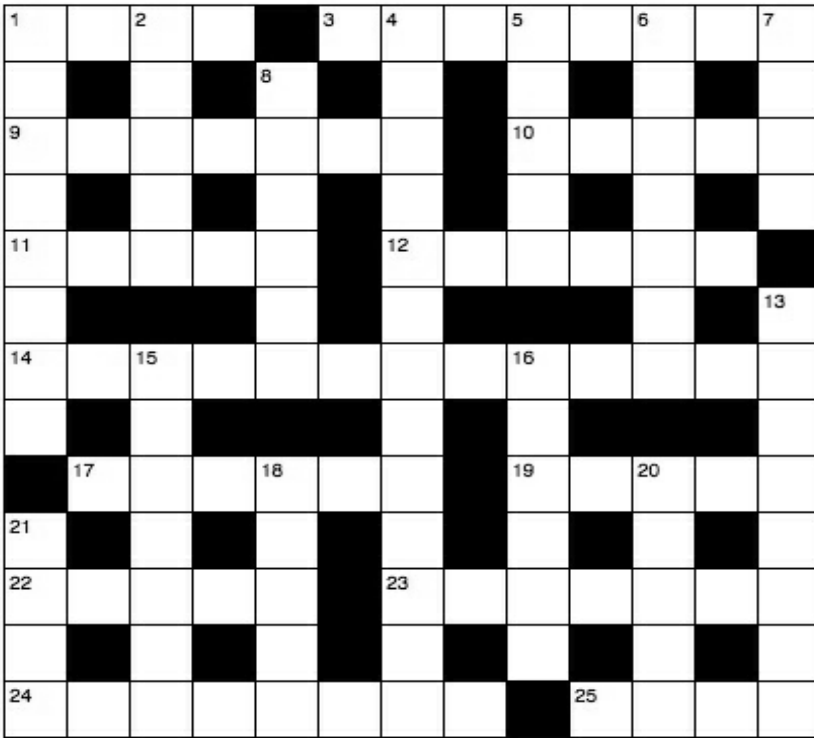
ACROSS

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark
(Genesis 8:8–12) (4)
- 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
- 9 Described by the 19th century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
- 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
- 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
- 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
- 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
- 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God
(Leviticus 21:20) (5)
- 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — '
(2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers
every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped
(Exodus 15:27) (4)

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A man asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead. A priest saw him but walked by on the other side. A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side.

A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him, he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he gave the innkeeper two denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was the neighbour to the man who was attacked?

Mouse Makes



Read the full story in
Luke 10:25-37



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H E P A O I J D
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CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE
GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • POURED • OIL
WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO

WORDSEARCH - DOUBTING THOMAS

If you have ever doubted aspects of your Christian faith, St Thomas is the saint for you. His feast day is on 3rd July.

Thomas, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, was deeply devoted, but also very honest whenever he got confused. When Jesus spoke of going to his Father (John 14), Thomas was not afraid to ask Him where His Father was. As for the Resurrection, that really baffled Thomas. He demanded to see the risen Jesus for himself - and touch the wounds in His hands and feet. When Jesus appeared, Thomas' immediate response was one of worship: "My Lord and my God" (John 20).

Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of us down the centuries who also sometimes doubt Jesus. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, we can find support for our own faith in Him.

AFRAID
BAFFLED
CONFUSED
DEMANDED
DOUBT
FAITH
FATHER
FEAST
FEET
GOD
HANDS
HONEST
LORD
MY
RESPONSE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAINT
SEE
SUPPORT
THOMAS
TOUCH
WHERE
WORSHIP
WOUNDS

Answers are on page 27





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HARRY BARBER - RECOLLECTIONS

I write this on behalf of the congregation and friends of St James Church.

Many of you will have known Harry personally, or will have heard his name mentioned. Sadly, he passed away in April.

Harry was a wonderful man, who worked quietly behind the scenes doing many jobs in and around church. Nothing was too much trouble for him. He had a tool for every job and would always have a solution for any problem that arose. No task was too great or too small. His knowledge and experience were invaluable to the well being of the fabric of St James Church.

He kept a general watchful eye on the church and churchyard, as he lived so close. He was always there to help if a problem arose, often before we were even aware that there was a problem.

Harry was on the locking up rota, he emptied the bins in the churchyard, maintained the fuel for the mowers, set the central heating in Church House, helped with the Christmas tree lights both inside and outside, and even swept the pavement outside church.

I know that I have not mentioned everything Harry did for us because he did so much, quietly and without a fuss.

Many of you will have your own memories of this wonderful man and the contribution he made to our church.

Harry, we will miss your happy smile, your infectious enthusiasm and your words of wisdom and advice.

Linda Pitt



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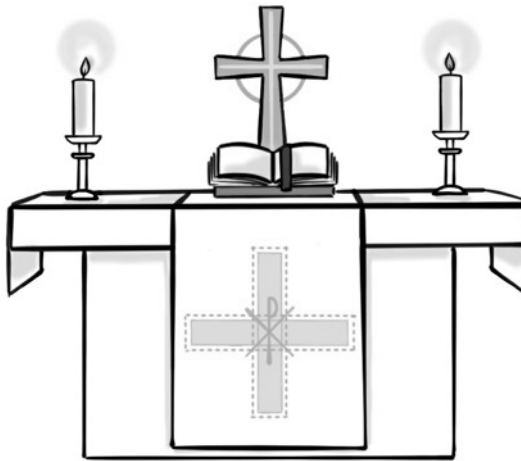
Executive Principal for Primary - Miss S Deakin

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

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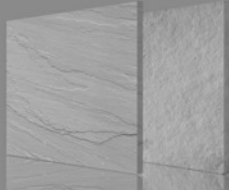
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SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE *continued*

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