

SHIRLEY PARISH



**KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

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

We meet for half an hour at 8.30am every Saturday morning to pray for the Parish - all are welcome to join us.

**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**

The Friends of St James invite you to a

Coffee Morning

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

Saturday 5th October 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!

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

As you probably know, for almost twenty years before I came to Shirley Parish I worked in schools, so September has for a long time felt like a month for both taking stock and looking forward.

The past year has, for me, been a very exciting one in the life of the Parish. Following on from the Leading Your Church into Growth course that a group of us from Christ the King and St John's went on last autumn, we have begun to think about what growth might mean for a Parish like ours. With sermon series both last autumn and from Candlemas through to Easter, Lent groups and the Start and Moving On courses we have seen people grow not only in their own faith but also in the confidence to talk about it to those around them. Both these courses have been attended by some people who have been coming to church all their lives, and yet they have still found them stimulating and challenging. We plan to run them again over the next months – so watch out for details.

Our Parish's bid to become an eco-church was launched by Bishop David when he was with us in July. It's going to involve some hard work and some tough decisions around the way we do things and use resources, but it will show that we are committed to being serious about the environment and the effect of climate change. And we all know what a key issue this is for every one of us, especially as we think of our children and grandchildren and what kind of world they will be living in. Maybe some of the freak weather we have experienced this year has emphasised that. The one thing that is certain is that each one of us is going to have to think about the way we live and how what we do affects the planet. This is true for individuals, churches, communities and nations.

We may not see many children in our churches on Sunday mornings, but our work and witness amongst the children and families of the Parish continues to grow and develop. The Christmas and Easter journeys are always a success in telling some of our school children something of the major stories on which our faith is based; we continue with Open the Book at both Widney and Kingswood schools and Peter and I have regular contact with other schools through assemblies and visits.

In January we started the Saturday morning Messy Church alongside the Thursday one which runs monthly at Widney School. This has grown and we now have between twenty and thirty children and their families in a very busy (and noisy) Church House.

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD *continued*

It gives us a way of welcoming baptism families and keeping in touch with those we have known for some time. Both of our Messy Churches are worshipping congregations in their own rights, but a challenge we have is how we continue to encourage both children and adults to grow in their understanding and faith.

And then there is our Sunday worship – with the revised pattern of worship and our regular joint Parish services, our involvement with a host of retirement homes and care homes, the Christmas Tree festival, our various social events and groups and much more besides. It's all very encouraging – and both Peter and I would like to thank all those whose time and energies make these things happen.

Elsewhere in this magazine you can read about some of the things that are planned for this Autumn. I hope you feel as excited and enthused about them as I do as we look forward together to see what God will do with us and through us in the months ahead.

Reverend Paul Day

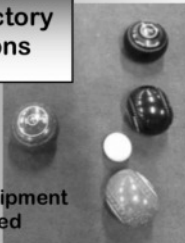


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WE ARE ALL JUGGLERS!

I sometimes wish I'd been taught to juggle as part of my training. I did have the opportunity, as someone I met at theological college was an accomplished juggler and fire eater. Regretfully, he failed to pass on those skills. Or did he?

I'll leave the question of fire eating to one side, but the juggling skills have been honed over many years, as a parent and husband, as well as a parish priest.

One feat of juggling we all face is between our responsibilities as members of the wider community of Shirley and as citizens of the United Kingdom. You don't need me to tell you how difficult that can be! Nor do you need me to tell you how important it is for us to approach the challenges of life as Christians. Precisely because there is no easy, single answer to this challenge means that courses like the 'Moving On' course being held at St John's really do help us. By praying together and discussing our faith, we can be helped greatly to meet the challenges of life as disciples of Jesus.

I cannot commend the 'Moving On' course enthusiastically enough. If the timing and location doesn't work for you, then please let Paul or me know and we'll sort something out.

Moving On ▶▶

For those taking the next steps in their faith journey

A chance for you to think about your faith and ask any questions


<p>Wednesday evenings Sept 4th – Oct 16th 7:30pm – 9:30pm</p>	<p>St John's Church Tilehouse Lane Tidbury Green B90 1PW</p>
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Put on by the churches in Shirley Parish

Please contact the Parish Office for more information
0121 745 8896
admin@shirleyparish.co.uk

<https://shirleyparishb90.wixsite.com/live/>

SHIRLEY PARISH



KNOWING CHRIST
MARKING HIM KNOWN

As for the other feats of juggling, a lot of that revolves around finance: the acoustics in Church House need attention, so we can talk to one another more easily. The yard at the back of Church House needs extensive work - and don't get me started on the sound system at St James's. The PCC will be joining in the juggling act of deciding which to do and when, and undoubtedly, other things will crop up. So please pray for the parish jugglers and pray that the Lord will guide and bless us, now and always.

Reverend Peter Law-Jones

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

A big 'thank you' to all those who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning at St John's Church on Wednesday 11th September. £237.25 was raised for the charity.

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THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the September winners

£50 - Rachel Kavanagh

£25 - Peter Sellers

FLOURISHING IN FAITH

In our Sunday morning sermons over the next couple of months we will be thinking about what flourishing in faith might mean for us. The dictionary definition of to flourish is to “grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way”. What would that mean for us in terms of faith?

We’ll begin by thinking about our journeys with God – are we growing in our faith and our understanding of God and his call on our lives, or do we feel we are in the same place as we have been for some time? Faith is about learning, growing and developing. We will think about how we can grow and what that means for us.

We will look at biblical themes like peace and justice, and how they can develop in our lives and in the world around us as we flourish. In doing so we will think about the huge eco issues that the world is facing such as climate change and pollution, things we will be touching on our bid to become an Eco church which we launched when the Bishop came in July.

We will think about what repentance means – and it is far more than just being sorry for things we have done. It embraces a change of heart and, effectively, a new beginning. And we will finish with thinking about the implications of all this on our daily lives and the lives of our churches. What would our churches look like if we were all flourishing in faith?

Dates and themes are below – we hope you will not only enjoy but also learn from the sermons.

- October 6th - Our journey with God
- October 13th - Peace – Shalom – Wholeness in our lives
- October 20th - Peace – Shalom – Wholeness in the world
- October 27th - Justice – Looking at our relationships from God’s perspective
- November 3rd - Justice – Looking at the world from God’s perspective (Eco issues)
- November 10th - Repentance – Change of heart, change of life
- November 17th - Lifestyle – Flourishing with God
- November 24th - A flourishing church

(Don't forget - if you miss a service or would like to read a sermon again they can be found on the Parish website -

<https://shirleyparish90.wixsite.com/live/download-a-sermon>

ECO CHURCH - UPDATE

The Eco church baseline questionnaire is very comprehensive and is being completed by all three congregations. We have different concerns and approaches but pooling ideas will help us all. I think we are already a thoughtful community and can be pleased with how much of our activity is already best practice.

There are some quick gains - for example, changing to toilet tissue made from recycled paper would cost no more and it is reported that 27,000 trees are cut down DAILY to make more luxurious brands!

We can be more thoughtful in our recycling - for example, at Church House some people seem unaware that we have a green bin which can be filled to the brim before using the mixed waste container. It can take weeds, churchyard debris, dead flowers and vegetable peelings.

We need to work on ways in which we can, individually and as a church community, reduce our impact on the environment. The LOAF principle is suggested as a guide for food purchases (see - <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/loaf-principles.htm>) -

Locally produced
Organically grown
Animal friendly
Fairly traded

I would add to this SEASONAL. Foods like asparagus and strawberries can be grown locally in season but at other times are brought in by plane from across the world - and never taste as good either so why buy them?

We could look at using less harsh cleaning products. Although these are more expensive off the shelf, I have found that they last well and one product is suitable for many purposes.

It would be good to hear of parishioners' eco tips - ideas to avoid waste and protect the natural world. Recent weather extremes and evidence of climate change are a wake up call and a reminder that 'the earth is the Lord's and everything that is in it' - we are called to care and protect it in any way we can.

Kate Crocker

THE PARISH BOOK CLUBS - AND THEIR BEST READS OF THE YEAR

There are two book clubs in our parish, one based at St James' and one at St John's. St James' has sixteen members and meets every five or six weeks in Church House, St John's has about five members and meets every month or so in its members' homes.

Towards the end of August, the two groups met to talk about the books they had been reading over the previous eighteen months and to reveal the results of their voting for 'best reads'.

St John's and friends top reads of 2018/19

1. *The Yorkshire Shepherdess* Amanda Owen. (Non-fiction memoir about life on a Yorkshire farm; also a TV series)
2. *The Shardlake* novels C.J. Sansom (a series of eight or nine historical crime novels set at the time of Henry VIII. Some of the group have read them all)

St James' top reads of 2018/19, in order of preference

1. *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* Mary Ann Shafer and Annie Barrows. (A novel set in Guernsey during WW2. Our most popular book of the year.)
2. *The Salt Path* Raynor Winn. (A couple walk the Cornish coastal path after losing everything, this is a recent read and is proving extremely popular.)
3. *All the Light We Cannot See* Anthony Doer. (France and Germany in WW2, a blind girl and a young German soldier.)
- 4= *The Willows in Winter* William Norwood. (Sequel to *Wind in the Willows*.)
- 4= *And the Mountains Echoed* Khalid Hosseini. (A family in Afghanistan, Paris and America.)
- 4= *Mr Pip* Lloyd Jones. (Civil War in Papua New Guinea and how Charles Dickens saves a child.)
4. *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* Gail Honeyman. (Too full of wonderful surprises to summarise.)
5. *A Walk in the Woods* Bill Bryson (Very entertaining story about a long walk in the Appalachian Mountains in America.)
6. *Restless* William Boyd. (Spy thriller.)
- 8= *The Penguin Lessons* Tom Mitchell. (Being adopted by a penguin in South America.)

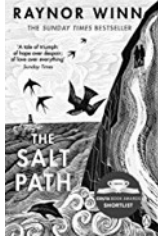
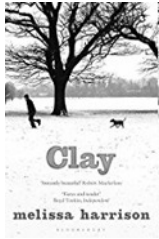
THE PARISH BOOK CLUBS *continued*

- 8= *March Violets* Philip Kerr. (Crime thriller set in 1930s Germany.)
9. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* Mark Haddon. (Autistic boy struggles to understand his family.)
10. *Five People You Meet in Heaven* Mitch Albom. (Reflecting on important influences in a life.)
11. *Clochmerle* Gabriel Chevalier. (Classic French comic novel.)
12. *Johnny and the Dead* Terry Pratchett. (Supernatural thriller.)
13. *The Secret Life of Cows* Rosamunde Young. (Memoir about cows and how they live together.)
14. *The Shack* Wm Paul Young. (A lost child and a meeting with God.)
15. *A Single Swallow* Horatio Clare. (A factual story of swallows and how they migrate.)
16. *Coffin Scarcely Used* Colin Watson (1960s detective story.)

I hope you find something here you like and even more, I hope you are inspired to join one of the book clubs to enjoy the conversations (and refreshments) that go with each read. Details of current books under discussion and dates of meetings are in the weekly Pew Slip.

Happy reading.

Ray Speakman

	<p><i>St John's and friends Book Club are currently reading 'The Salt Path' (see number 2 above) and St James Book Club are reading 'Clay' by Melissa Harrison and will be meeting in Church House at 7pm on Tuesday 15th October to discuss it - all are welcome</i></p>	
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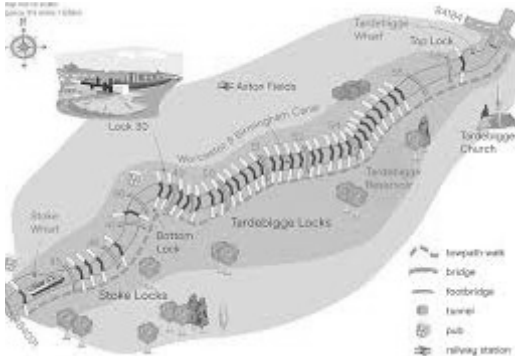


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THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES WALKING CLUB



Our September walk started from the car park next to St Bartholomew's Church at Tardebigge. The church is on a hill overlooking the Worcester to Birmingham Canal, which extends for thirty miles from Gas Street Basin in Birmingham to Diglis Basin in Worcester.

The canal at Tardebigge is famous as it has the longest flight of locks in the UK, comprising thirty narrow locks on a 2¼ mile stretch of the canal.

The first part of the walk was along the canal. We certainly did that part of the walk faster than the two narrow boats we saw coming up through the locks!

Lunch was eaten overlooking the reservoir. The water in the reservoir feeds the flight of locks.

At Stoke Pound we left the canal and walked up a lane to join the footpath, part of The Monarchs Way, which took us back to our starting point.

The walk was approximately 5 miles, the average for our walks.

It was a most enjoyable and interesting walk and in perfect weather, warm sunshine and a gentle breeze.

The next walk will be on **October 13th**. We meet in the car park opposite St James Church at 11.30am to find out where we are going. There is always a lift available if you do not wish to drive.

We are a friendly group and would welcome new members or occasional walkers

Linda Pitt



SKITTLES 2019

Christ the King Church hosted another successful skittles night on 14th September, with lots of delicious food of all kinds.

Lasagne, a chicken and vegetable curry, a vegetarian curry and chilli plus a cottage pie and lots more besides.



Followed by a supreme trifle, a strawberry gateaux, apple and blackberry flan, cheesecakes, ice-cream and cheese and biscuits and lots more besides.

Oh yes, I almost forgot why we really came together - to play skittles! At the beginning of the night we had been paired with another with the teams having exciting names like Pen and Ink, Fish and Chips, Town and Country.

As the doors to Church House were open, I can't begin to imagine what anyone who was passing would think was happening when they heard Sarah calling out Watch and Chain, quickly followed by North and South!

There was a lot of shaking of hands when you met your partner for the first time and plenty of banter all round during the rounds of skittles.

There was a raffle in which I won the mystery prize which, as we will most probably do this mystery prize again, will remain a secret for now.

All in all, it was a really good night and we also raised £392.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with foods and desserts and gave raffle prizes.

If you have never been hopefully now you have read a little bit about it, you will come and join us next year?



Denise Smith (Reader)

FABRIC BAGS FOR THE FOOD BANK - UPDATE

Thank you to those of you who have responded to last month's article by donating fabric or giving offers of help in the making of fabric bags to help reduce the number of plastic carrier bags used at the Food Bank. This is the beginning of what we hope will become an ongoing project and a small contribution to being an eco-church.

Please continue to donate any heavy-duty fabric you may have - e.g. soft furnishing/curtain/denim - anything to take the weight of tins, bottles, packets and so on.

There will soon be some patterns available for anyone who would like to have a go at making some at home and I will leave these in the Parish Office - or please see me at St James Church after the 10am service.

And finally for now, we owe huge thanks to Treadwell's for their most generous donation of some beautiful fabric remnants which will make between fifteen and twenty beautiful, strong bags. This support from a long-established, local business is very much appreciated.

Thank you all for your support.

Chris Speakman

ST JAMES'S CHURCHYARD

The growing season is slowing - thank goodness!

Many thanks to the valiant mowers and trimmer operatives, who have kept the grass down. There is still much to be done and it is all too easy for areas to get out of control again however generally the churchyard looks better tended.

The Autumn working party will be on **Saturday 12th October, 10am to noon.**

Please come and help if you can.

Any queries ring Kate : 0121 258 2956

COFFEE MORNING

**Wednesday 9th October
at 10.30am**

including
making cloth
bags for the
Food Bank

ALL ARE WELCOME!

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, TILEHOUSE LANE,
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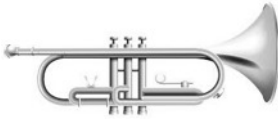


The Friends of St James present ...



The Shirley Band in Concert

Friday 11th October 2019 at 7.30 pm
at St James Church, Shirley



Tickets £6 including refreshments will be available on the door

Elizabeth House

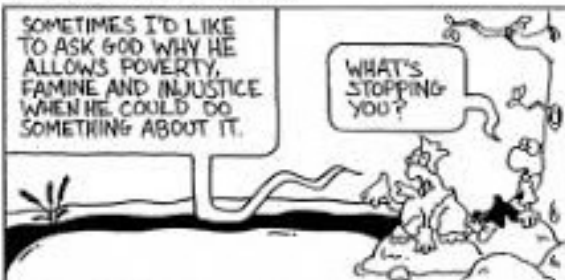
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- ✓ Friends & families are always encouraged to visit & join in the programme of entertainments, worship & other activities

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & BROCHURE
TELEPHONE 0121 744 2753

Pontius' Puddle



NARTHEX, FOOD BANK and ADAVU

The Narthex Resource Centre has been in the throes of a very much needed redecoration lately with all the stock crammed into the centre of the room. That's why Carol has been running down her supplies and not accepting any bedding etc. but still helping people with their needs. Hopefully during October she will be able to take some of the items we have been storing for her; then we shall be able to accept all those lovely donations which you have kindly offered during August and September and we have asked you to keep. Please keep an eye on the pewslips to know when we are open for business once more!

BUT ... the situation at the Food Bank has been very worrying this summer. Stocks have been going down rapidly and only by spending emergency cash donations have we managed to keep some items of food available. The supplies of pasta, rice and baked beans are still enough to sink a battleship but, on several occasions, we have had no fruit juice, no tinned fruit, no small bags of sugar, no crispbreads, no tinned tomatoes, or tins of wholly meat.

On the Hygiene side (which is my particular enthusiasm) I have sometimes had no soap or shower gel to offer. The Trussell Trust estimates that requests for help with emergency food parcels have increased by 20% this year and that seems about right, particularly at our satellite food banks at Balsall Heath and Hall Green. The collection box at our local Sainbury's has been in use for some weeks now and is gradually becoming more noticed. The colouring books and felt tips which you gave following my appeals last month have been a great success – it would be excellent to have more of both for the Christmas parcels. If you come across any freebies on your travels, do scoop them up!

More folks have been rescued from domestic slavery recently and Liisa and her team at ADAVU continue to support them with not only the practical items of toiletries, clothing and domestic items from the Resource Centre but also emotionally, accompanying them to hospitals, courts and immigration authorities. Often language is a real problem and Liisa is always on the hunt for funds to pay translators - if you can think of anyone or any organisation which could make a grant/donation for this purpose I will put you in contact with her.



Harvest Festival is here - the peak time of the year for donations to the Food Bank - hopefully everyone will be generous this year.

OUR PARISH DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2019

- 1st 11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 2nd 10.30am: Magazine Committee Meeting
10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
2pm: MU – 'Making Music' with Kate Law-Jones
7pm: Eucharist and Guild of St Raphael at St James Church
7.30pm: 'Moving On' course at St John's Church
- 5th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 65 Baxters Road
10.30am: The Friends of St James Coffee Morning at Church House
- 6th THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Sermon series – 'Our journey with God'
7pm: Reflective Worship at St John's Church
- 7th 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion
- 8th 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
- 9th 10.30am: Coffee Morning at St John's Church
7.30pm: 'Moving On' course at St John's Church
- 11th 7.30pm: Shirley Band Concert at St James Church
- 12th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 2 Bishopton Close
10am: Churchyard working party at St James Church
- 13th THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Sermon series – 'Peace – Shalom – Wholeness in our lives'
11.30am: The Friends of St James Walking Club (see page 10)
- 14th 11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion
- 15th 10.30am: Mason House Holy Communion
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
7pm: Book Club at Church House
- 16th 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
7.30pm: 'Moving On' course at St John's Church
- 17th 3.30pm: Messy Church at Widney School
7.30pm: St John's Management Committee Meeting
- 18th LUKE THE EVANGELIST
- 19th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church
10am: Messy Church at Church House
- 20th THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Sermon series - Peace – Shalom – Wholeness in the world'

OUR PARISH DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2019 *continued*

- 22nd 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
- 26th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 65 Baxters Road
CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR
- 27th THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Sermon series - Justice – Looking at our relationships from God's perspective
9am: St John's & Christ the King joint service at St John's Church
- 28th SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES
- 29th 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 30th 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
4pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church
7.30pm: Christ the King Management Committee Meeting

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

THIS MONTH'S MORNING SERVICES

Date	Christ the King at 10.30am	St John's Church at 9am	St James Church at 10am
6th October	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist
13th October	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Worship
20th October	Eucharist	Morning Worship	Eucharist
27th October	Joint Eucharist at St John's		Eucharist

NOVEMBER 2019 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Saturday 12th October

PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 26th October

Scams Awareness Event

Do you want to know more about how to protect yourself and your loved ones from being a victim of a scam or cyber-crime?

Solihull Police are holding an event at the Core Library Solihull on Wednesday 9th October 2019 10am-2pm.

We will have experts on hand to advise you.

Come along and have a chat to officers and partner agencies.

No need to book just pop along



The Core Library Touchwood Shopping Homer Rd, Solihull B91 3RG

Nearest parking in Touchwood Car Park Homer Road Solihull B91 3GJ.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Thursday 12th to Sunday
15th December**

**Christmas Tree Festival
in St James Church**

**Saturday 14th December
Craft Fair in Church
House**

*If you are interested in
contributing in anyway to the
Festival or Craft Fair please
contact Jane Cook or Linda Pitt
through the Parish Office*



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OPENING THE BOOK ...

(almost) everything you wanted to know about the Bible but were afraid to ask

The Bible holds a very important place in the Christian faith. We believe that God speaks through the Bible today and has done throughout the history of the church. But we also are aware that the Bible can be very hard to read or understand. So how easy do you find reading the Bible?

You might have lots of question to which you are looking for answers. Questions like these :

Is the Old Testament relevant anymore? Did God really make the world in six days? Did the miracles actually happen? What should we think when the Bible seems to contradict itself? How was it decided which books should be part of the Bible? In what way is it the word of God? Is there an overarching story? How do the Old and New Testaments fit together?

On **Saturday 9th November** we are setting aside the morning to look at the Bible and try to answer questions like those above. We will give an overview of its major story themes, we will talk about the different genres or types of writing, we will think about how it came to be in the form we have today and we will come up with some thoughts that might make reading it a bit easier and less daunting. And we hope the morning will help you to hear God speaking through it and encourage you to read it more.

The morning will take place at St John's Church, Tidbury Green from 10am to 1pm. There will be more details in the pewslip nearer the time, but for now please put the date in your diary! This is one not to be missed.

Reverend Paul Day



A PRAYER FOR MORNING ... AND FOR EVENING

O God, who divides the day from the night, separate our deeds from the darkness of sin, and let us continually live in your light, reflecting in all that we do your eternal beauty. O God, who gives the day for work and the night for sleep, refresh our bodies and our minds through the quiet hours of night, and let our inward eyes be directed towards you, dreaming of your eternal glory. *From the Leonine Sacramentary, 5th century*

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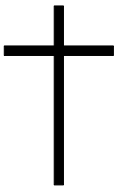
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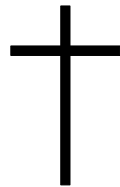


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Union Theatre are bringing their next production to St James Church in November - Roald Dahl's 'The Witches'.

Following a tragic accident, Boy is left in the care of his lovingly eccentric Grandmother. However, when they find themselves amongst an unconventional meeting of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in the Hotel Magnificent, they soon discover that things may not be as they seem...

The Witches are nothing like the ones who wear pointed hats and fly on broomsticks – they look very much like ordinary people and when Boy gets turned into a mouse, he joins forces with his Grandmother to defeat the Grand High Witch and her followers. Will they succeed?

Roald Dahl's classic story is faithfully adapted for the stage by award-winning playwright David Wood (Goodnight Mister Tom).

Don't miss this magical, musical and witty tale, perfect for children and adults alike.

Performing on **Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th November at 7.30pm** and on **Saturday 9th November at 2.30pm**.



Ticket prices - Adults £12, Concessions £10 and a special offer for a family of four £40. Please contact the box office for any further information and to book tickets - 0121 705 6762.

Tickets can also be booked online at www.uniontheatresolihull.co.uk

Please bear in mind that 'The Witches' can be scary, so parents please exercise discretion with bringing very young children.

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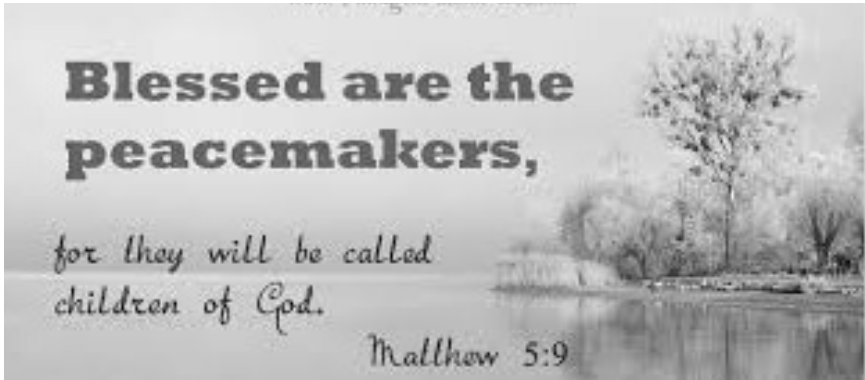
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H.G. Wells wrote of Mr Polly, *'he was not so much a human being as a civil war.'* A lack of peace in our lives reflects the lack of peace in our families, community and nation.

In this beatitude, Jesus calls us to be *peacemakers* by overcoming conflict and bringing unity to relationships. This is very different from being a *peacelover*! It calls for hard work, patience and a willingness to understand the disagreement. We also risk misunderstanding and rejection by those we're trying to help. This brings a much-needed perspective to the current Brexit debate!

What perspective does a follower of Jesus bring to peacemaking? Jesus says we will *'be called children of God'*, because we demonstrate the family likeness of the ultimate peacemaker. On the cross Jesus has enabled us to have peace with God (Romans 5:1) and broken down the walls of hostility between people (Ephesians 2:14). To be a peacemaker starts by recognising that God *'has reconciled us to Himself through Christ'* (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Our mission is to implore people to *'be reconciled to God.'* (2 Corinthians 5:20). This is the only true path to inner peace, as it is rooted in the reality of peace with God.

We are also called to bring peace between people, especially in the local church. It's easy to avoid doing anything because we want a peaceful life! It means confronting situations where relationships have broken down and bringing people together in unity of heart and mind. The role of peacemaking is never easy; it cost Jesus His life and will undoubtedly change us: *'reconciliation takes place when two opposing forces clash and somebody gets crushed in between.'*

Reverend Paul Hardingham

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

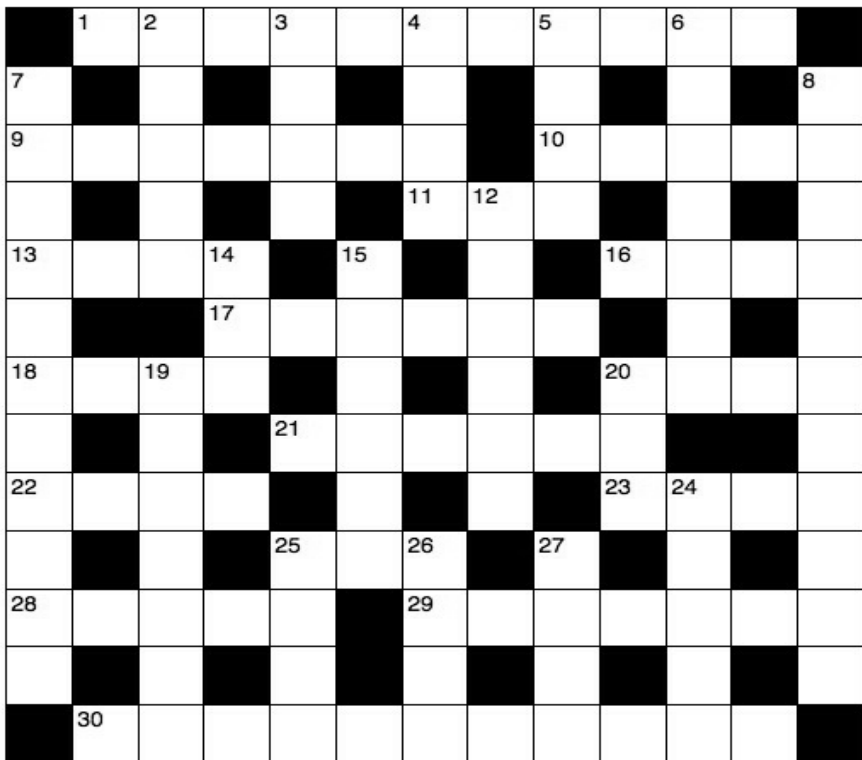
- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — '
(Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's
victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone
(Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction'
(Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers'
(2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf'
(1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch
(2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — '
(1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to
Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead
brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

- 14** Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet'
 (Judges 14:14) (6)
19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding'
 (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under
 grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
26 Heroic tale (4)
27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32) (4)



THIS MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

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WORDSEARCH - HARVEST

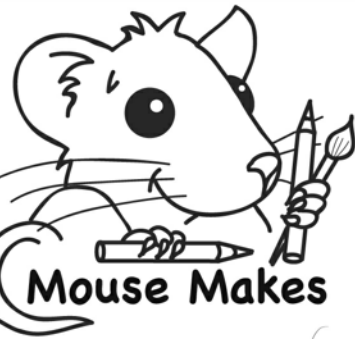
Psalm 65 expresses harvest perfectly: "You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn, for so you have ordained it... You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance... the hills are clothed with gladness, the meadows are covered with flock and the valleys are mantled with corn; they shout for joy and sing."

Answers are on page 29



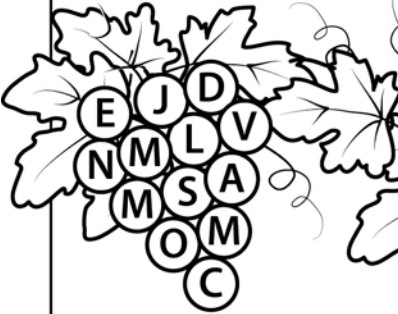
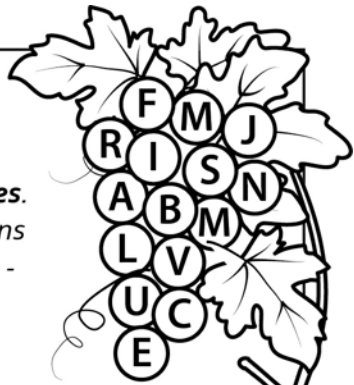
ABUNDANCE
 BLESSING
 CARE
 CARTS
 CORN
 CROPS
 FLOCKS
 FOOD
 GOODNESS
 MARROWS
 MEADOWS
 MUD
 OVERFLOW
 PRAISE
 PUMPKINS
 RAIN
 RICHES
 SOFTEN
 THANKFUL
 WATER
 WHEAT





THE TRUE VINE
Jesus said:
*"I am the **vine**;
 you are the **branches**.
 The one who remains
 in me -and I in him -
 bears much **fruit**,
 because apart
 from me you can
 accomplish nothing."*

John 15:5



*"My **commandment** is this -
 to love one another just
 as I have loved you."*

John 15:12

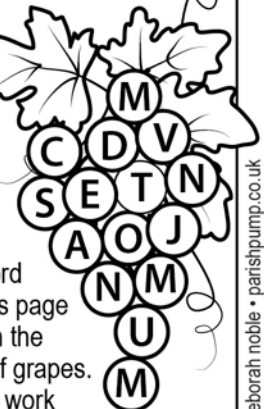


*"No one has greater
love than this -
 that one lays down
 his life for his friends."*

John 15:13



You can read
Jesus' teaching on
The True Vine in:
 John 15:1-17



Each of the word
 in **bold** on this page
 is hidden in the
 bunches of grapes.
 Can you work
 out which bunch
 each word is in?

How many other
 words can you make from:
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6	5	1	4	2	8	9	3	7
8	2	3	5	7	9	4	1	6
9	4	7	1	3	6	5	2	8
3	7	5	8	1	2	6	9	4
4	9	6	3	5	7	2	8	1
1	8	2	9	6	4	7	5	3

PUZZLE ANSWERS



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

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



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