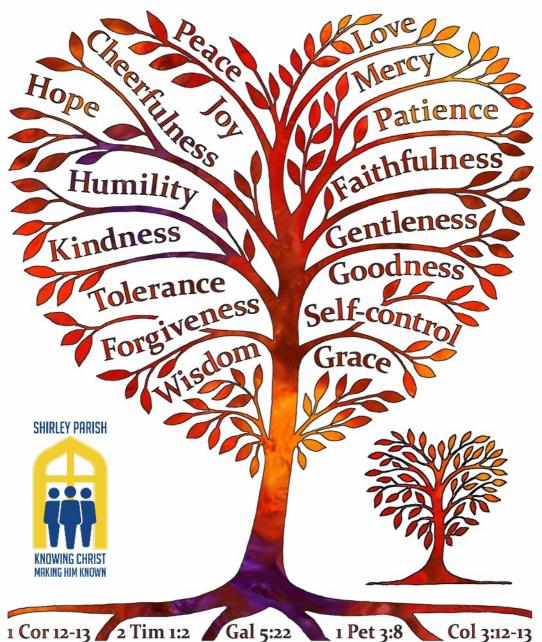
Shirley Parish Magazine February 2022



SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

CLERGY	Vicar - Reverend Paul Day 18 Widney Lane, Solihull B91 3LS email: pgday@hotmail.co.uk	Tel: 0121 537 9672
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C	Reverend Nick Ball 12 Apsley Croft, Kings Norton, B38 0AF email: nicholaseball@hotmail.com	Tel: 0121 243 1336
	Reverend Theresa Jones email: theresaj1@btinternet.com	Tel: 01564 822687



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email:	admin@shirleyparish.co.uk			
Parish Website:	https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk			
Social Media:	twitter.com/@ParishB90			
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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

OUR SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Date	Time	Service	Venue	
3rd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church	
6th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church	
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church	
	3.30pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Church	
10th	10.30am	Holy Communion St James Church		
13th	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church	
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church	
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church	
17th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church	
19th	10am	Messy Church	Church House	
20th	Oth 8am Holy Communion St James Chur		St James Church	
9am		Morning Worship	St John's Church	
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church	
24th	24th 10.30am Holy Communion St James Chu		St James Church	
27th	9am	Holy Communion St John's Church		
	10.30am Morning Worship		St James Church	
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church	



Ash Wednesday service - 2nd March 2022 7.30pm at St James Church



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

Recordings/live streams - https://www.youtube.com/ShirleyParishB90

ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, Widney Junior School, Clifton Crescent, Solihull B91 3LQ ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the January winners £50 ~ Angela Norman £25 ~ Valerie Harrison



MESSY NATIVITY

It wasn't an easy decision to cancel the live Crib Services, but with the church usually very full and no way of controlling numbers, or little people wandering about, it seemed the right thing to do. And so 'Crib on the Couch' was suggested. When we visited the Christmas Tree Festival, we found Kate D hard at work writing the script. She asked me if I thought it was over ambitious. 'Well yes, but we have spent the last eighteen months being over ambitious – let's go for it'.

Our Messy Church families were up for it and we could use the first half hour for craft activities – in practise making props for later.

This was the first time we have had Messy Church actually in the church but with both transepts clear of chairs we were able to fit in ten socially distanced family tables and there was certainly a great buzz as they set about making crowns, stars and angels. Meanwhile I was trying to fit costumes to people, tricky when you have more people than costumes!

The wise men (all four of them!) wore the crowns they had made. Angels made that day, and from the Messy Christmas tree, were attached to garden canes and danced round the shepherds as a heavenly host.

The play was recorded as a series of short videos and still photos. We are not joking when we say that there was no rehearsal. But the patience of our Messy families was legendary as Kate called people to do their bit. All the acting Oscars are going to the children who rose to the occasion magnificently.

The real task was done later as Reverend Paul edited the various bits of video, sound

recording and still photos into the end product that you can find on YouTube.

And we need to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone who took part with patience, good humour and excitement.

Sarah Penfold On behalf of Messy Church



4

REPAIRS AT ST JAMES'S : HELP IS AT HAND

Much as we love our Victorian building, it is always springing expensive surprises in terms of maintenance.

The latest issue (apart from the December roof leak) is the brickwork on the south side of the building. We need to do some repointing, replace broken airbricks and re-waterproof some of the water gullies to avoid damp getting into the walls.

Our good friend Mr Jelley has given a quote for the work and the National Churches Trust has awarded a grant for £1350, 50% of the costs, which is a great help. We expect to start the work in early spring when the weather is favourable for setting mortar.

The **National Churches Trust** is a registered charity, dedicated to keeping church buildings open throughout the UK so that they can be used for worship and community activities. Their support for churches also ensures that architecture and heritage is safeguarded for the future. This is very much in line with our thinking and hopes for our church building and its role in the community.

We can show our appreciation for the Trust's support by publicising their work, liking them on Facebook, following them on Twitter @NatChurchTrust or becoming a 'Friend' for only £30 a year - I have just joined via the website and ordered some paper information leaflets too.

https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org

National Churches Any questions? contact Kate Crocker



MARCH 2022 PARISH MAGAZINE

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY Saturday 12th February

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6

HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED

FOOD BANK: the mince pies and other party foods came in generously in December and even afterwards. But what is consistently needed is the same boring list of UHT orange juice, dried milk, tinned fruit and tinned veg, not thrilling but vital. If you can donate any of those items, hungry folks just down the road will be very grateful.

CLOTHING BANK at the NARTHEX: can anyone help with warm coats and jumpers for girls aged 5,6,7 and 8? The storage boxes are completely empty. Also, a single duvet in good condition for a young man.



ADAVU: it may seem a strange request, but please may I have any empty large Quality Street or Roses chocolates tins? They are ideal for sending out cakes to the clients without the butter icing/topping becoming squashed. I used up all my boxes sending the cakes before Christmas - they were much enjoyed - well done all cake makers.

It seems such a long time ago now, but although the party on December 16th had to be cancelled because of the Covid variant spreading and with some of the clients having background health problems it was deemed too risky for everyone to mix in one room and cause them to travel on public transport, all twenty mothers and the seventeen children had their Christmas parcels and cakes delivered to them! It took an enormous effort by Liisa and her team to organise it but somehow it was accomplished.

I hope we shall have a quiet period for a while now. There will still be the need for toiletries and if you have any unwanted ones from among your Christmas gifts, do please send them in my direction!

Best wishes to you all, thank you for your support through this difficult past year, I hope that 2022 will be a peaceful and healthy time,



Elizabeth Paice



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FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

After the excitement of Christmas and New Year we have had a quiet time but can now look forward to the Fairtrade Fortnight, which will take place during the last week in February and the first week in March.

The Social Committee has given us the go ahead to organise a raffle; the prize being a Fairtrade hamper. Pam Owen is collecting donations of goodies and the proceeds of the raffle will be shared between Fairtrade and Christ the King Church.

Kate Crocker has also received the fundraising pack for a Big Cuppa Fairtrade event which could take place in early March - Covid permitting!!!

However, we don't have to wait for these events in order to support Fairtrade; all supermarkets carry Fairtrade goods on their shelves and, when shopping for tea, coffee, biscuits, etc., we could look at the Fairtrade shelves and perhaps try out something that we haven't had before.

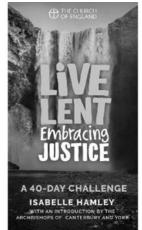
Chris Terry - Ecochurch Group



GETTING READY FOR LENT

Each year at the start of Lent, Christians are challenged to turn away from sin and towards new life. Together we acknowledge that our own lives, our communities and our world stand in need of God's redeeming and transforming power.

Live Lent: Embracing Justice is the Church of England's theme for Lent 2022. It invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray – for the church and the world far and near – that 'justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 4.24).



IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY

Sometimes it's hard to find any good news in the newspapers or on the television. There is so much that causes us concern and even fear. In addition, there are many things in our own lives that we have to face up to which challenge us and worry us.

And yet we read in the letter to James (James 1:2) *My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy.*

Is James being totally unrealistic? How can we take that kind of verse seriously?

These are questions we thought about at Reflective Worship in January when, in our series of small words with big meanings, we looked at joy.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who died at the end of last year and whose funeral was on New Year's Day, was a man who radiated joy. It's quite hard to find a photo of him where he wasn't beaming. And this beaming was not about superficial happiness, it was about a deep contentment in knowing God and knowing that he was accepted and loved by God and that nothing the world could throw at him could change that fact.

This kind of joy can be ours too. It's about recognising the unconditional love of God, that God is always with us and that we can live our lives in his presence. This, surely, is one of the central truths of the Christian faith – highlighted at Christmas – that God came to live alongside us in the mess of this world and that he will never desert us.

In Psalm 16 the psalmist talks of his relationship with God. It's one of those great psalms of encouragement; one that can lift us to new heights again when we are feeling low. One that reminds us that what really matters is how we stand with God. We read in the psalm *In your presence there is fullness of joy*. Perhaps those few words

can say more to us than most about what real joy is and give us an insight into what James might have had in his mind when he wrote those words we looked at earlier.

Reverend Paul Day



PSALM 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- 2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."
- 3 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.
- 4 The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.
- 5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
- 6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
- 7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
- 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.
- 10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.
- 11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

(English Standard Version)



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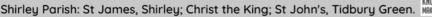
If I have to go into hospital

(or other form of care)

please let my Church know where I am, by phoning 0121 745 8896.

I give my permission for this information to be passed on so they can keep in touch with me.

Signed





GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

This month, as we mark St Valentines' Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others.

God's love is unconditional: God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! *'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. 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).

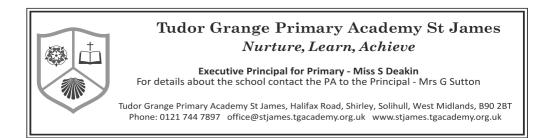
God's love is sacrificial: God's love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God's love. He died for our sins to give us access to God's love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

God's love is forgiving: According to the film *Love Story, '*Love means never having to say you're sorry.' Yet Jesus' love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.

In this World Cup Year, we remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: *"I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!"*

Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.





SAVING THE PLANET IN 2022

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

Start in the KITCHEN

25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food every year, partly because most of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste.

Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help.

Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills.

According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plantbased and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

Don't forget the BATHROOM

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash.

Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

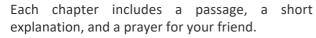
Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available.

Saving the planet needn't cost the earth.

¹⁵ I'M PRAYING FOR YOU

When we hear that a friend is struggling, it can be easy to say, 'I'm praying for you', but harder to know what you can actually pray!

Through forty carefully chosen Scripture passages, in her book *I'm praying for you*, Nancy Guthrie opens up the wealth of scripture to teach us how to pray for those who are hurting. She shows us how the Bible provides us with a vocabulary for prayer that enables us to ask God to achieve what He intends in and through suffering. Nancy teaches us to see how God's purposes are revealed even in our darkest days, and encourages us to pray for His will to be done in difficult situations.



Using the QR code at the end of each prayer, you'll be able to load and send a personal text message to the person you're praying for so that he or she will know not only that you are praying, but exactly what you are praying.

The book costs £6.99.

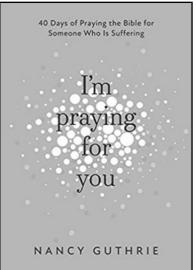
WHAT A TREE CAN DO FOR YOU

Trees can help prevent you getting depressed. At least, you are less likely to be on antidepressants if you live on a tree-lined street.

That is the finding of a survey by the Forestry Commission, which looked for the first time at the mental health value of our forests and woodlands. Apparently, they save the NHS something like £185 million in antidepressants each year.

A spokesman at Mind, the mental health charity, said: "Although many of us feel like hibernating in winter, getting outside in green spaces and making the most of the little daylight we get can really benefit both your physical and mental health."







"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?'

A PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

Dear Lord God,

February can be a difficult, cold month, and this year there is much to be concerned about, with the pandemic still affecting our lives in so many ways. But thank you, Lord, that February can also be a month of wonderful signs of hope.

Help us, when we look down, to see the snowdrops and other bulbs pushing through the dark earth, showing the promise of Spring and brighter days ahead.

And then, help us to look up, to see the light of Jesus, Your revelation to all the world, in that baby who grew and died and rose again to offer salvation, hope and life to all who put their trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, for Jesus and that, because of Him, nothing – no pandemic, no circumstance - can ever separate us from You.

Thank you for Your Holy Spirit, living in all who trust in You, giving us strength for each new day of this and every month. In Jesus name, Amen.

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SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB - THE KNOCK-ON EFFECT

Our Book Club's Christmas and New Year read has been *How It All Began* by Penelope Lively. The main character, a fairly elderly Charlotte, is mugged, and this unexpected event has a knock-on effect on her world – what Lively calls, a 'human version of a motorway shunt'. Charlotte's comfortably married daughter Rose has to look after her. As a result she is unable to accompany her employer, an academic relic called Lord Peters, to receive an honorary degree in Manchester, so his niece Marion goes instead. Then the wife of Marion's married lover, an antique dealer, discovers the affair – and so on – towards Anton.

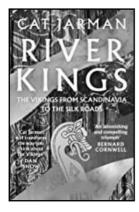


Charlotte gives literacy lessons to an economic migrant from

Eastern Europe called Anton. The standard language learning materials do not work so Charlotte gives Anton a copy of *Where the Wild Things Are.* Anton's response describes why we all liked the novel so much – and why we like reading:

'I am like a child. Child learn because he is interested ... Story go always forward – this happen, then this. This is what we want. We want to know how it happen, what comes next. How one thing make happen another.'

This is why so many of us in the Book Club loved this novel – because, as Penelope Lively says at the very end of the novel, 'These stories do not end, but spin away from one another, each on its own course'. One of our group said that she 'didn't want to finish the novel'; another said it 'didn't challenge her, but it was anything but flippant'; another loved the 'ripples and the trail of repercussions'. We also liked, possibly, because Lively writes about memory and the way we change over time, about how each of us is made up of several versions of ourselves, 'who spin and mix and part like sparks of sunlight on water'. This is a line from the first Penelope Lively novel we read as a Book Club earlier last year - *Moon Tiger*.



Our next Book Club read involves a choice: *River Kings* by Cat Jarman, OR *The Story of the British Isles in 100 Places* by Neil Oliver. The choice might be helped by the price: the Jarman is £9.99, and the Oliver is £4. We plan to meet again at 2pm in Church House on **Monday 7th February** – Covid permitting!

STORY BRITISH ISLES

NEIL OLIVER

Ray Speakman

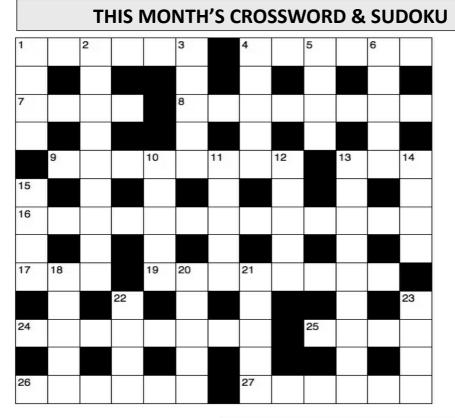
THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of 16 Across, and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)



21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house

(Hebrews 11:31) (5) 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love'

(1 Corinthians 13:13) (4) 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end'

(Daniel 5:26) (4)

Answers are on page 23

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FEBRUARY WORDSEARCH

February is the month of romance.

Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives.

But there are other kinds of love to celebrate, and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God.



Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life.

Romance can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good – unless we accept it!

Answers are on page 23

ANGELS BABY BOYFRIEND CANDLEMAS FIANCÉ **GIRLFRIEND** HEARTS HUG KISS LOVE MARY PRESENT PRESENTATION REPENTANCE RESTAURANT ROMANCE ROSE TEMPLE VALENTINE WORSHIP





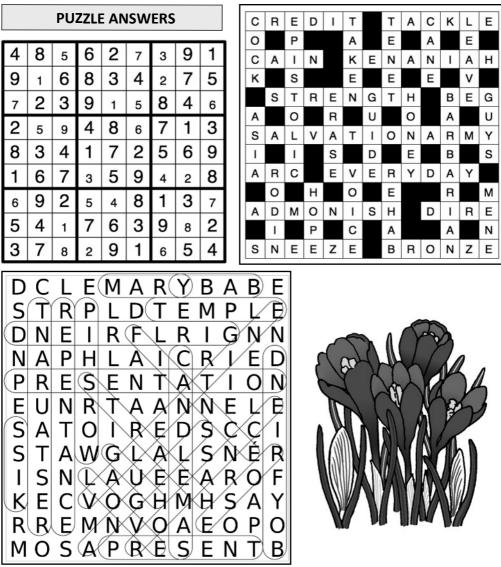
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IN PRAISE OF PLODDERS

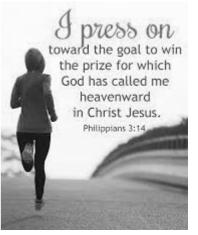
I've been pondering the words of the apostle Paul where he says, 'I press on towards the goal' (Philippians 3:14). It suggests to me taking one step at a time, and simply keeping moving in the right direction with discipline and determination.

This reminds me of the great Bible translator William Carey who said of himself,

"If he gives me credit for being a plodder, he will describe me justly. Anything beyond that will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything."

Christian discipleship is not always exciting, glamorous, or even enjoyable. Sometimes it is a matter of quietly getting on with it, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Tony Horsfall







December funerals

₩ \		3rd	Bernard Douglas		
December baptism		16th	Sandra Rumsey	72	
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5th	Edison Robert Jones	23rd	Helen Wragg	95	



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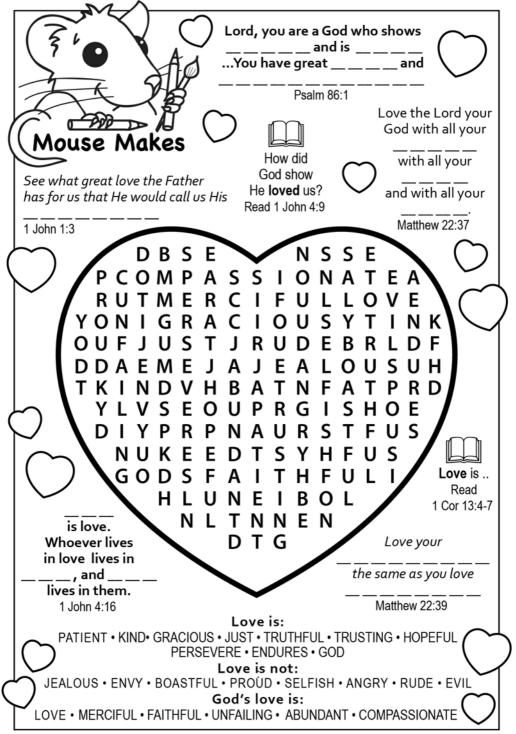
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