



Shirley Parish Magazine



June 2020

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE

CLERGY

Associate Vicar - Reverend Paul Day

18 Widney Lane, Solihull B91 3LS
email: pgday@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0121 537 9672

Reverend Wendy Carter

134 Shakespeare Drive, Shirley B90 2AR
email: revwendy@sky.com

Tel: 0121 744 6315

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

Parish Office, Church House, Church Road, Shirley, B90 2AX

Telephone: 0121 745 8896

email: admin@shirleyparish.co.uk

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

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

facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

Due to the Coronavirus, all public worship is currently suspended and our church buildings are closed. The resources for 'Sunday at Home', 'Everyday at Home' and 'Messy Church at Home' are being sent out by email, in the post or hand delivered where email is not available and are on our website.

We are keeping in touch with church members on a regular basis. We hope we have included everybody in this but if you know someone who hasn't received a phone call, please let us know. Also let us know if you or someone else needs some help.

SHIRLEY PARISH

A PRAYER FOR THE PARISH



KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN

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

ST SOFA'S

We worship at St Sofa's now
 Since Covid came to stay
 We don't dress up or do our hair
 But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap
 A Zoom with his IT
 And so we sit down ev'ry week
 And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty
 With praise she does not ring;
 But still her people gather round
 To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing
 Yet it has helped us see
 The church is NOT a building
 But folk like you and me!

By Nigel and Carol Beeton



IF YOU WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CRÈME EGGS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN OUT AT OUR EASTER SERVICES ...



... they were given out ...
 socially distanced ...
 at a VE Day Street Party ... well done
 Ellie and Joe!



OUR PRAYER FOR GROWTH

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

**TELEPHONE NUMBER TO DIAL TO LISTEN TO OUR
 RECORDED SERVICES AND REFLECTIONS : 0121 270 9089**

Thomas Bragg & Sons

Funeral Directors

We create every
funeral individually,
just for you.

- 24-hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Transparent pricing
- Home visits
- Private chapels of rest
- Floral tributes
- Memorial masonry
- Prepaid funeral plans

Thomas Bragg & Sons Funeral Directors are here to support and guide you. We offer a friendly, professional service to families.

Call us for immediate support, advice or a home visit. We are here to help 24 hours a day.

www.thomasbragg.co.uk

Shirley

0121 744 1428

562 Stratford Road, B90 4AY

Knowle

01564 773 610

1682 High Street, B93 0LY

 Funeral Partners



STEPHEN & PHILIP
PAINTER

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED

TEL: 0121 707 1172

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

NEW HALL GREEN OFFICE NOW OPEN

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

TEL: 0121 777 4300

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

24 HOUR SERVICE

WWW.STEPHENANDPHILIPPAINTER.COM

NEWS FROM SHIRLEY PARISH PCC

Our PCC broke new ground on Monday 11th May by meeting over the internet using Zoom.

The following items were discussed:

- The Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2019 were approved (these can be viewed on the website). They will need to be formally adopted at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which needs to be held before the end of October. The date will be circulated when it is known.
- It was agreed that the terms of office of Church Wardens, Synod Reps and PCC members be extended until the date of the annual meeting.
- David Paice talked about the financial pressures that the Parish was under because of the lockdown. Each month expenditure is exceeding income by around £1,000. Many people make their regular giving to the churches through the plate collections (either by envelope or cash giving) and these of course cannot be made at the moment. He encouraged people to change their method of giving to bank transfer or direct debit.

To set up a direct debit simply telephone the Parish Giving Scheme on 0333 002 1271 and have to hand your bank account details and the name and reference details for the church. These are:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| St James the Great | 020 602 173 |
| Christ the King | 020 602 220 |
| St John the Divine | 020 602 174 |

- Further to Peter Law-Jones' retirement, Archdeacon, Jenny Tomlinson, and Area Dean, Duncan Hill-Brown, will talk to the PCC on May 18th about future ministry in the Parish.
- A template motion recommended by the Diocese about the reporting of serious safeguarding incidents was approved.
- Brief reports were given covering Eco Church, Operations Committee, Mission, Ministry and Pastoral Committee, Deanery Synod and Churches Together.

Reverend Paul Day

IF GOD IS SO GOOD AND POWERFUL, WHY DOESN'T HE DO SOMETHING ABOUT CORONAVIRUS?

We've probably all asked ourselves this question over the last few weeks. Maybe a sceptical friend or family member has asked us too.

How can we respond?

Let's start at the very beginning, in the opening pages of the Bible. The story of Creation which we find there introduces us to God as the good, all powerful Creator of a universe teeming with life and possibilities. It is not a static, unchanging and unchangeable creation, but one which is full of potential for growth and development. The setting for life and fulfilment, love and joy.

But, just as turning on a light produces a shadow, so launching a creation which can grow and flourish also includes the potential for negative consequences. The same mechanism which allows the development of new, positive characteristics like resistance to disease can also allow the development of lethal viruses and other illnesses. Not because God willed their existence, but because it was a necessary consequence of allowing creation to be fruitful.

And as part of this opportunity for growth and development and relationship, humanity was given the ability to make choices. We only have to read as far as the third chapter of the Bible, which tells how Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, to see that human beings chose to go our own way, rather than God's.

It doesn't take much to see how the choices of the human race have contributed to the spread of the virus – especially those of its richer and more powerful members. Our unhealthy view of the natural world as being there for us to plunder rather than to care for; the halting progress on a vaccine against other coronaviruses because there was perceived to be little chance of profit in producing one; our dependence on fossil fuels, producing pollution which at best affects lung function, and at worst may actually be playing a role in spreading the virus particles; overcrowding; homelessness; poverty – and so many other things besides.

So, you might say, all this addresses the "how did it happen?", but it doesn't really explain why God isn't doing anything about it.

Maybe we also need to remind ourselves and others that when we speak of the power of God, what we are speaking of is the love of God. It was this power which brought him to live among us as Jesus and show us the way to live*.

It was the power of love which took him to the cross, and which burst out in resurrection on that first Easter Day.

IF GOD IS SO GOOD continued

And God is the source of that love which is being shown day by day in so many areas of life; the dedication and self-sacrifice being shown by so many front-line health and social care workers, support staff, shop workers, delivery drivers, utilities and telecoms engineers and council workers; the kindness and generosity of friends and strangers offering practical and emotional support to those who need it; the inspiration and hard work of those seeking a vaccine or a cure.

And equally important, the self-discipline of those of us who are staying indoors day after weary day, to keep ourselves and others safe, and to reduce the demands on the NHS.

God is doing something about coronavirus – and he is doing it through people like us. Whether we realise it, or not.

**You can find the story of Jesus in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's version is a good one to start with. If you would like a copy, just leave a message with your contact details on the Parish Office phone (0121 745 8896).*

If you would like to discuss any of these (or other) issues, I am always happy to have a conversation. You can contact me at kate_day@me.com or via the Parish Office.

Kate Day

Glazing and Locks

- Misted/broken double glazing replaced
- All double glazing repairs
- Over 25 years experience
- City & guilds qualified
- Police and Age Concern registered
- Full locksmith service
- Key cutting
- Windows, door realigned

Contact Jason on 07789761412

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Subscriptions for the next six months (June to November) for those who pay by cash/cheque are due on the 1st June.

However, due to the present situation, these at the moment cannot be collected. Everyone's numbers will remain in the monthly draw and when things improve I will collect payments. Lynda McPherson

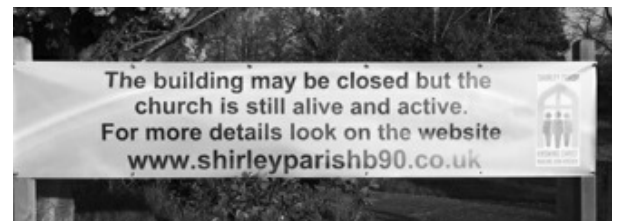
Winners of 100 Club for May 2020 - £50 David Paice £25 Susan Guy

WHAT ARE YOU LEARNING IN THIS STRANGE TIME?

Elsewhere in this magazine a number of people share some of the things they have noticed during “life in lockdown”. But what about the church? What observations can we make? What lessons are we learning?

I touched on this in a sermon in the May Reflective Worship. You can read the sermon on the website* but here are a few thoughts from it about what I am learning.

I am learning that the church is the people not the building, nor what we do on Sunday mornings. I touched on this in the magazine last month and of course, I knew this already but what we have been through and seen has written this out in bold and underlined it in red for me. As the banner outside the St James says, the building may be closed but the church is alive and active.



Second, I am seeing, and many people are telling me, that pastoral support – loving and caring and praying and looking out for each other - is stronger now than it ever has been. We may not be able to have coffee with each other, or give our friends a hug during the peace, or even see them face to face, but we are spending more time with each other over the phone and having much more deep and meaningful conversations with each other. We are allowing ourselves to be vulnerable in a way we simply haven't done before, and we are supporting each other in prayer and practical ways.

And third, the worship we are offering over the Internet, over the phone and on paper is allowing many more people to join in than was ever possible on a Sunday morning. People who are too infirm to come to the church building, people who can't make it on a Sunday morning because of work or other commitments, partners of regular worshippers, people who just want to see what it's like, but don't wish to be seen by others to be doing that (for whatever reason), people who are nervous about entering a church building.

The important thing about the future is that we take with us the lessons we are learning, the ways we are growing and the things that are bringing us blessing. That they become part of the new future. That all those things are structured into whatever we build when we come out the other side. That's a challenge that we as churches in Shirley Parish will have to address in the months to come. One thing to me is clear, the future will not be the same as the past.

Reverend Paul Day

*<https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/download-a-sermon>

Counselling and Psychotherapy Services

07846 928516

serenitypsychotherapy@outlook.com

www.serenitypsychbirm.co.uk



FARMER'S POEM

They ran to the groceries, they filled up their carts,
 They emptied out Tesco, Morrisons, the Mini-mart,
 They panicked and fought and then panicked some more,
 They rushed to their homes and they locked all the doors.
 The food will be gone! The milk, eggs and cheese!
 The yoghurt! The apples! The green beans and peas!
 The stores have run out, now what do we do?
 They'll be starving and looting and nothing to do!

Then they paused, and they listened a moment or two.
 And they did hear a sound, rising over the fear,
 It started out far, and began to grow near.

But this sound wasn't sad, nor was it new,
 The farmers were doing what farmers always do.

The food was still coming, though they'd emptied the shelves,
 The farmers kept it coming, though they struggled themselves.

Though the towns had forgotten from where their food came,
 The farms made them food everyday, just the same.
 Through weather and critics and markets that fall,
 The farms kept on farming in spite of it all.

They farmed without 'thank you's,
 They farmed without praise,
 They farmed on the hottest and coldest of days.

They'd bought all the food, yet the next day came more,
 And the people thought of something they hadn't before.
 Maybe food, they thought, doesn't just come from the store.
 Maybe farmers, perhaps, mean a little bit more.

Adapted and shared by Sarah Penfold

WELL DONE TO OUR PARISH KNITTERS!

Following the article in last month's magazine, our Parish knitters have been busy making NHS angels. These, and many more, will soon be winging their way to their deserving recipients ...



Facebook - NHS Knitted Angels Birmingham and Solihull - KABS

CARRY ON LIVING

There was a sudden panic on the respiratory ward I was on, from being told the day before that I would be going home on Sunday and now this Thursday morning it was suddenly all go, everyone was being sent home, as they needed the ward ready for COVID 19 Pandemic patients; we were too ill to be in hospital, better off at home with our support teams in whatever form they came in from District Nurses or in my case the palliative care, as they didn't want any of us in hospital now .

Well I was feeling much better and was looking forward to going home and the odd meal out or simply seeing family.

So just my luck, as that weekend we all went into lockdown.

So how as lockdown been for me?

It's been very terrifying each time I time I heard on the news the latest death toll or read about some of those who had lost their lives to this terrible disease and seeing the doctors and nurses all gowned up and the sweat upon their brows and the fear in their eyes.

I feel completely useless; all I can do is pray and give thanks out to our children and my brother for doing our shopping and making sure we have what we needed.

Denise couldn't go to work, couldn't go out of the house, even for exercise as I was classed as a highly vulnerable at risk person; we were stuck in this together.

Yes we started off like everyone else - sorting out cupboards - but then got to the point where we could do no more as would need to take a trip to the tip which was out of bounds for us.

CARRY ON LIVING continued

So we started to pray more, joining in with lots of church things online, even watching church services offered by other churches too.

It was great to see some many people enjoying Church online.

Then we started clapping for the NHS and then all Key Workers, that is still going on. I find it so moving that everyone wants to do this. Watching Captain Tom walk his walk and raise millions, and so many other inspiring stories started to lift my spirits and see the goodwill spreading around - maybe this pandemic is bringing us all back to our senses of what is real and good and how to go about change in our communities.

I pray every night that this new found community spirit will last and people will realise that this is what God wants for us all; to look out for each other and truly love our neighbours as ourselves .

I am still battling on with my illness and, yes, somedays it is a real struggle to even just walk the length of our room, but I am glad I have seen this time and hopefully the dawn of a new era for mankind. Amen.

With love and prayers from Graham Smith (Reader)

TOILET TWINNING

Toilet twinning is a project which has been run for many years by the Tearfund, a Christian charity operating world-wide. The idea is that individuals or organisations donate £60, which is used to develop sanitation in poor countries, matching a toilet here with one overseas. They prefer to work over time with communities but also provide toilets and taps in refugee camps on an emergency basis.

I have quite a lot of literature about this and long ago, before Covid-19, we were planning to talk about the project in the churches, having asked for donations during Lent. There are obvious health benefits, but a decent toilet also makes for better security for women who may be attacked if they leave the house at night.

I have some cash accumulated for this and a couple of people have indicated that they also have money for the project so, since the need is urgent at the moment, I have twinned one of the Church House toilets on behalf of Shirley Parish. I chose to twin our toilet with one in Malawi because it is our link diocese and received a nice picture showing 'our' facility and its location. This will be on display once we are allowed in Church House again. The Eco Church project encourages toilet twinning, which is another reason for getting it going in the parish. It is a matter of human dignity and safety and I hope that we will be able to continue to support this Charity.

Keep safe! Kate Crocker

THE ROSE BEYOND THE WALL

Near a shady wall a rose once grew,
 Budded and blossomed in God's free light,
 Watered and fed by the morning dew,
 Shedding it's sweetness day and night.

As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,
 Slowly rising to loftier height,
 It came to a crevice in the wall
 Through which there shone a beam of light.

Onward it crept with added strength
 With never a thought of fear or pride,
 It followed the light through the crevice's length
 And unfolded itself on the other side.

The light, the dew, the broadening view
 Were found the same as they were before,
 And it lost itself in beauties new,
 Breathing it's fragrance more and more.

Shall claim of death cause us to grieve
 And make our courage faint and fall?
 Nay! Let us faith and hope receive--
 The rose still grows beyond the wall,

Scattering fragrance far and wide
 Just as it did in days of yore,
 Just as it did on the other side,
 Just as it will forever-more.



By L.A. Frink and shared by Ann Blackford



Bill Boyce - Decorators

ALL TYPES OF PAINTING, DECORATING AND GLAZING
 Free Estimates

89 Union Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 3BY
 Telephone: 0121 744 0040 Email: billboycedecorators@hotmail.co.uk
www.billboycedecorators.co.uk

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

Every week, while our church buildings are closed, a team from the Parish have been meeting via Zoom to share any concerns or needs across the Parish and to pray together. Sarah challenged us to share five things that we have thought, done or experienced during the period of lockdown and the responses received are as follows:

Linda Alford

- * I now have only 'in date' tins in my kitchen ... for the first time EVER
- * My seeds and seedlings have proper written labels in every tray and pot - no more guessing flower or vegetable before planting in a totally unsuitable spot
- * Shouting at the TV is really a form of exercise
- * Staring at the night sky for satellites which never appear is actually quite relaxing until non-appearance of said satellites for the fourth night running starts to get annoying!!!
- * Admitting that I am never going to read Wolf Hall etc. - if I can't find the time now then I never will

Kate Crocker

- * The sound of silence
- * The kindness (and incredible courage) of strangers
- * The back of the food cupboard, having eaten our way through a lot of 'out of date' stuff - what can go wrong with pearl barley?
- * A deep mistrust of the media and their need for sensational reporting
- * 'Woods with anemones in flower 'til May' - anyone recognise the quote?

Margaret Foresheew

- * Having a lovely lie in without the alarm waking me up - bliss
- * Painting outside and inside - and myself in the process - never found the time or the energy before
- * Clearing out all the clutter - as shops are closed I still cannot take it anywhere
- * Spending more than five minutes speaking to people on the phone - people I would most likely only have said a Good Morning to previously
- * All the people who have expressed their gratitude for us keeping in touch and especially for Paul and Kate's input

Gill Hanton

- * Maybe it's time to go grey?!
- * Without technology it would be much more difficult to work from home or to keep in touch with others

... continued over the page

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN continued

- * We still have much to be thankful for especially all of God's creation and new life around us
- * Maybe some of the things that we thought were important just aren't
- * There are a lot of things that we usually take for granted

Sarah Penfold

- * That most of the things in my wardrobe are either ten years old or the wrong size, or both
- * That grating, adding chopped onion and stir-frying transforms most vegetables
- * Small things matter - our neighbours put fish and chips on our step - the best ever!
- * At Bernard's suggestion we have been saying Morning and Evening Prayer and have been renewing acquaintance with the Psalms
- * I have always believed that blood is not thicker than water, that we pick our friends and manage our relations - I'm beginning to doubt myself

Linda Pitt

- * Watching my garden come to life
- * Cleaning the oven ... I have had the cleaner for months!
- * Speaking to those on the telephone who otherwise I would generally only speak to at church or at meetings
- * Having quality time with my husband and enjoying our daily walks and doing jigsaws ... seven 1000 piece jigsaws to date
- * Hearing that my one granddaughter wanted to come and have a 'social distancing conversation' from the drive because she needed to see her grandparents

Denise Smith

- * Making a cottage pie with a savoury cheese crumble topping, a favourite of my children's, not had it in years
- * After having a clear out of my clothes just before lockdown, learning I don't need as many clothes as I thought - but trying to team up the remaining ones is a challenge
- * Finally having time to read the book I started a year ago and get past the first chapter at last, having read that chapter three times now
- * Realising I am more independent than I thought as I hand over my weekly shopping list with tears in my eyes, yet I hate shopping!!
- * Appreciating dandelions and daisies whilst watching all the bees and other little insects that they attract - they can stay in my mossy lawn forever as it makes it much more attractive!

Would you like to share yours in next month's magazine?



The coronavirus is tightening its hold on the everyday lives of everyone, affecting our movements, our relationships, our health and daily routines. Its impact is perhaps even more

pronounced on our clients, who are true survivors rescued from trafficking and modern day slavery.

I was interviewed today by an academic researcher investigating the impact of the Coronavirus on our services and on our clients and thought I would offer an insight from Adavu as we continue to offer casework support to survivors of modern slavery in the West Midlands.

First and foremost, the lockdown and social distancing is having a tremendous impact on the mental health of our clients, the vast majority of whom suffer from anxiety and depression at best to complex PTSD and suicidal ideas in more complex cases. Not being free to move about, attend college, visit friends or sit in nature is bringing memories of forced exploitation to the surface. Many clients are struggling with anxiety in the confines of their four walls. Many are fearful of dying or of their children falling ill. They are unable to have the all-important unhindered social interaction with friends and some worry about their estranged families back home, wondering if they will survive the pandemic where the health care system is not as efficient.

Many of our clients also have serious underlying health conditions that necessitate strict self-isolation, so we are receiving significantly more requests for food and toiletry deliveries. Three of our clients are facing giving birth without the support of a birthing partner.

We are trying to find ways to lift the spirits of our clients (regular calls, What's App conversations, activity parcels, birthday cards) as well as continuing with our casework (helping with financial matters, advocating in areas of housing and health) but we do miss the face-to-face contact that we all need as human beings.

We are in tough times, but we are digging deep and will hold on. We will all come out of this, having learned much from the resilience and strength of the survivors whom we walk alongside.

Blessings to all our supporters. Liisa Wiseman

(This is the charity which Shirley Parish supports through the Christmas Gift Tree and donations of toiletries, babies' toys and books)



You probably remember that David and I have had to withdraw from helping at "our" Food Bank on Wednesdays following suggestions from the government that we oldies (old! who??) should stay at home - and strong instructions from our sons! Just at the time when every pair of hands was needed! Numbers of clients have shot up with so

many more people being put onto Universal Credit and the need for donations is even greater. The constant need seems to be for tins of fruit and vegetables, boxes of UHT milk (semi skimmed), long life fruit juice and small bags of sugar; please can you put your donations in the collecting boxes in Sainsbury's, Tesco's and Waitrose? Many thanks.

CLOTHING BANK: Nurse Jacki C. who is responsible for the homeless folks admitted to Solihull and Heartlands Hospitals is still in need of clothes for her "lads" to wear whilst patients in hospital – pyjamas, dressing gowns and slippers. She also asked me for bedding and towels to give them when they are re-housed afterwards. We are happy to accept them here – we stay in our house and open the car doors remotely so neither donations nor donors come into our house, and then Nurse Jacki collects them directly from our car on her next visit to Solihull Hospital. If you know of anyone tidying out their airing cupboards, please grab any bedding or towels!

Best wishes to you all, do hope you are managing and staying safe, Elizabeth Paice

Decorating Plus ... (Odd Jobs)

B90 and nearby

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

(Another Local Handyman !)

Williams Ashton & Anderson Limited

ACCOUNTANTS

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

* **Accounts Preparation**

* **Self-Assessment**
Tax Returns

(from £75)

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

*Call Kay for an
informal discussion*

Tel: 0121 706 7706

359 Yardley Rd, Yardley,
Birmingham B25 8NB

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

When we breathe freely without pain and disease, no one takes the air seriously. Only when we are without it do we realise how precious a gift from God each breath of life is!

*Let everything that has breath
Give praise to the LORD*
(Psalm 150:6)

PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Surgery and Home Visits

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

HPC REGISTERED

Tel: 0121 733 1292

193 Creynolds Lane, Shirley B90 4ES

GOING DEEPER

This Lent, instead of giving something up, I decided to read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I am very aware of the power of storytelling, and it seemed to me that reading the story of Jesus from four different perspectives would be a good way to spend Lent.

I have always enjoyed a good story and this goal gave me the motivation to read the Bible every day - something I have struggled to do consistently.

Ok, so, I didn't complete the 'task' in the time allotted - I had finished Matthew by the end of Lent - but I am continuing to read the other gospels as planned. I have found it interesting to compare the different books and pick up on the common themes. Reading the books in their entirety has also helped me to contextualise the weekly gospel readings and makes sense of the whole story of Jesus and of our salvation.

Rachel Hind (a member of Christ the King's congregation)

It's really interesting to hear about what people have been doing and how it has been helping them to go deeper with God. What have you been doing? Maybe you have some thoughts about our midweek reflections or a sermon that you have heard or read? Perhaps you would like to share it with other readers? ...



THE WOMAN AND THE FORK

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a deadly illness and had been given three months to live. So, as she was getting her things “in order” she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. The woman also told her pastor that she wanted to be buried with her favourite Bible. Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her.

“There’s one more thing” she said excitedly.

“What’s that?” came the pastor’s reply.

“This is very important” the woman continued “I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.”

The pastor stood looking at the woman not knowing quite what to say. “That surprises you, doesn’t it?” the woman asked.

“Well, to be honest, I’m puzzled by the request” said the pastor.

The woman explained, “In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say ‘You can keep your fork’. It was my favourite part because I knew that something better was coming ... like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!

“So I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, ‘What’s with the fork?’ Then I want you to tell them: ‘Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.’”

The pastor’s eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She knew that something better was coming.

At the funeral, people were walking by the woman’s casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing, and her favourite Bible and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question, ‘What’s with the fork?’ And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died.



Keep your fork!

THE WOMAN AND THE FORK *continued*

He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

So, the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you, oh so gently, that the best is yet to come ...

Author unknown, shared by Linda Pitt



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently launched 'Daily Hope' as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes, during the lockdown period.

The free phone line offering hymns, prayers, and reflections twenty four hours a day while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus received more than 6,000 calls in the first forty eight hours.

Elizabeth House

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

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

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

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

THE SHIRLEY PARISH POETRY ANTHOLOGY

Alongside our usual reading project for April, we decided to assemble a collection of poetry. Poems we are reading at the moment, in these strange and silent times, or poems from our past. Poems that mean something or poems we just like.

The list of the poems chosen is below. Most of them can be found online but there are a few original pieces – those by Don Abbey, Andrew Guy and the unnamed ‘local poet’.

The poems listed below have been chosen by Don Abbey, Jill Abbey, Linda Alford, Gwen Albrow, Meryl Davis, Kate Day, Paul Day, Margaret Foreshow, Pat Green, Andrew Guy, Sue Guy, Sue Harries, Mary Hobbs, Jeanne Ison, Margaret Jones, Theresa Jones, Kate Law-Jones, Peter Law-Jones, Sarah Penfold, Belinda Piasecki, Ray Speakman.

In Foyle's Bookshop Godfrey Rust

Churchgoing Philip Larkin

On Sarehole Bridge Don Abbey

Stars; a thought or two Don Abbey

Leisure W.H. Davies (chosen twice)

A Shropshire Lad A.E. Houseman

The Road Not Taken Robert Frost

The Summer Day Mary Oliver

Kneeling R.S. Thomas

Narrative Theology #1 Padraig O Tuama

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud William Wordsworth

The Way Through the Woods Rudyard Kipling

Five Eyes Walter De La Mare

Adlestrop Edward Thomas

The Private Edward Thomas

Bring me the sun bed Andrew Guy

Please, Mrs Butler Allan Ahlberg

Sonnets from the Portuguese XL111 Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Woodman, Spare that Tree George Pope Morris

Deceptive Local poet

Silver Walter De La Mare

THE SHIRLEY PARISH POETRY ANTHOLOGY *continued*

The Listeners Walter De La Mare

Caravaggio: Super at Emmaus Theresa Jones

Coronavirus: March 2020 Theresa Jones

Love Bade Me Welcome George Herbert

The Garden Andrew Marvell

The Last Night She Lived Emily Dickinson

A Boy's Song James Hogg

Poem written after the sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object James Kirkup

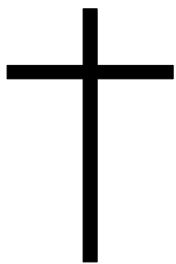
Cargoes John Masefield

To the Sea Philip Larkin

He Sits Down on the Floor of a School for the Retarded Alden Nowlan

When St James Church opens again, we hope to make copies of the collection available in church for everyone to have a closer look.

Ray Speakman



Monumental Masons

BANNOCKS OF SOLIHULL

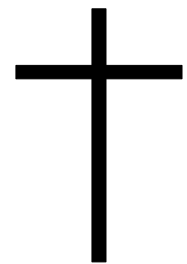
Five generations of quality manufacturing
and service from a family business.

All aspects of Monumental Masonry

PERSONAL ATTENTION ~ ADVISORY SERVICE
LARGE DISPLAY

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

Tel: 0121 744 1727
www.bannocksmemorials.co.uk



HEALTHY FOOD FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Several people asked for the recipe for the **lentil and cheese wedges** which Paul D made for the Harvest Lunch last year, so here it is ...

Red lentils 8oz (225g)
 Water $\frac{3}{4}$ pint (450ml)
 Large Onion 1
 Butter or margarine 1oz (25g)
 Cheddar cheese, grated 4oz (100g)
 Mixed herbs 1tsp (5ml)
 Egg 1
 Wholemeal breadcrumbs 1oz (25g)
 Salt and pepper to taste

Recipe from The Cranks Recipe Book (1985)



Cook the lentils in the measured water in a covered pan until they are soft and all the liquid has been absorbed (probably about 10-15 minutes).

Chop the onion and fry in the butter/margarine until transparent.

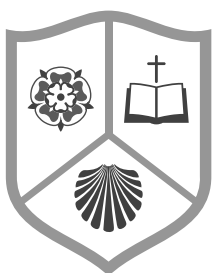
Combine all the ingredients together and press into an oiled 9 inch (23 cm) diameter cake tin.

Bake in the oven at 190C/180C fan/Mark 5 for 30 minutes.

Serve hot or cold, in wedges.

Served hot, it's good with little potatoes cooked in their skins and some green veggies. It's especially nice if you also have time to make some homemade tomato sauce (chop and fry an onion; add a tin of tomatoes with most of the liquid drained off, some dried basil, a splodge of tomato puree and a teaspoon of redcurrant jelly, and cook for about 5 minutes until quite thick and spoonable).

Served cold, it's good with salad and a dollop of Branston pickle.



Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James

Nurture, Learn, Achieve

Executive Principal for Primary - Miss S Deakin

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

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

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB - 'WINTER IN MADRID'

Winter in Madrid by CJ Sansom is set in England and Spain leading up to, and during the first years of World War 11. The central character is Harry Brett, who after an unhappy childhood and injuries sustained at Dunkirk, is sent to Spain by the British Government during the aftermath of the Civil War to gain information from an old school acquaintance, Sandy Forsyth, who might be involved is suspect goings on between Franco and Hitler. He meets up again with this unreliable friend and also with his ex-girlfriend Barbara who is now Sandy's partner, and he also hears about another lost friend, Bernie – a rebel at school and a rebel in later life. This is just the beginning ...



Some comments from book club members:

1. '... the whole book describes so powerfully and vividly the ravages of Spain's civil war. Madrid is deserted and many buildings destroyed, and Bernie's fate as a prisoner is very graphically described.'
2. 'I found the first few chapters quite hard to follow with all the chopping and changing between times and characters, but I stuck with it and eventually got drawn into it. I love a good spy story so that got me hooked, along with a romance too, and although I struggled with the changing time periods, I loved the characters and the plot and over the last few days I've hardly been able to put it down. It's felt like a really good BBC drama and I was keen to find out in the next instalment and what happened next to these really interesting characters.'

I was actually quite disappointed with the ending of the book. I didn't really expect it to be all hearts and flowers and a happy ending, but I kind of thought we might see at least some happiness for one of the characters, it all felt like it fell away in the final few pages. Interesting twist at the end with Sandy Forsyth turning up at the airport though! I did enjoy the book in the main, just struggled with the first few chapters and the ending was a bit bland!! '

3. 'I really was gripped by this book for more than one reason. I liked the way it flowed along and I had never understood what the civil war in Spain was all about so this filled in many gaps. It was all happening around the time of my birth and later on it mentioned the bombing of Coventry where I spent my teenage years and it reminded me of my confirmation one May morning just after dawn in the ruins of the cathedral in the open air before the bare altar.'

... continued over the page

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB continued

4. 'I'm not sure what I thought of this book. I didn't hate it and although pleased to finish it, reading was not a chore. I had expected to like it as I love the author's Shardlake series. It is set in a period that I find difficult. Too recent to be history, too far in the past to be familiar. Maybe there were too few characters for my taste – I am not an empathetic reader. Whatever. It failed to light my lamp.'
5. 'I loved *Winter in Madrid*, the writing, the story, history and characters. If only the ending hadn't been so sad after all they'd gone through.'
6. 'I started to read *Winter in Madrid* and realised that I had read it before. However, I continued to read it and, as before, I enjoyed the book. Unfortunately, the end of the book was still the same! As before, I felt quite deflated. I like happy endings, and, for me, this was not a happy ending. It is well written, the characters are believable as is the plotline, but the ending annoyed me, especially during this time of lockdown. Perhaps C J Sansom has been romantically unlucky or he is a cynic. Nevertheless and in conclusion, it's a book worth reading but it will now leave the bookcase and head for the charity shop. '
7. 'I loved this book, it's language, pace, descriptions, characters and story line. The background story did not detract from the main story giving us enough detail to form a clear understanding of the relationships with each character. I did get a bit bored with the flash backs at the start as they became a little predictable, however they were necessary in order to build up a complete picture of the characters and their interlocking history. The first chapter / pages were such a strong and dynamic hook, and this was reflected throughout the story.

I loved the tensions between all of the characters set in such a troubled historical episode of Spain's history. I feel I have a much better understanding of the social, economic, political and religious issues of the Spanish Civil War especially the devastating loss of life experienced on all sides. Life cheapened, individuals out for their own interests whilst professing to be working for the common good. The descriptions of life in the camp were powerful, reflecting all of the different tensions that existed outside the camp within. It was interesting to see that divisions existed amongst the prisoners when you would have expected unity against a common cause.

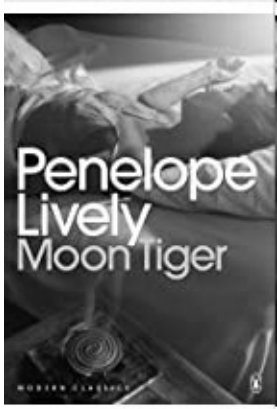
The love affair between Harry and Sophia offered hope as did the plan to rescue Bernie. Forsythe's disgrace and all the other 'baddies' timely demise seemed to show that good will eventually triumph and balance is restored.

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB *continued*

However the end of the book made me question whether the sacrifices made by Harry, Sophia and Barbara were worth it as Bernie was to die at Dunkirk. If no action had been taken to save him Sophia, Harry and Pacco would have had a life and the end result would have been the same with Bernie probably dying at the camp and Barbara wouldn't have committed murder and compromised her beliefs. So was he worth it?

Loved the twist at the end with Forsythe coming back, was he ultimately the winner and does good always triumph? Would like to know what happened next. 10 out of 10 from me.'

8. '*Winter in Madrid* reminded me of *Restless* by William Boyd – that early book club choice – similar suspense and ambiguity. I'm a big fan of William Boyd, so Sansom's book appealed. I was drawn and convinced by Harry's loveless time in school, his relationship with the untrustworthy Sandy, and the likeable rebel, Bernie, his early meetings with Barbara, Dunkirk and then into the shadowy and unsettling world of Madrid in the early 1940s. Couldn't put it down. A very welcome escape from 2020 lockdown.'
9. 'I liked *Winter in Madrid* so much that as soon as I'd finished I began reading it all over again'.



The next book for the Book Club is 'Moon Tiger' by Penelope Lively and the deadline for readers' responses is Wednesday 10th June. We are assuming that it's unlikely that we shall meet face to face, so this deadline is for readers' views to be sent to rayspeakman1@hotmail.com. Why not join in?

Ray Speakman

MOTHERS' UNION

As our members and their families around the world face self-isolation and lockdown we know how important it is for us all to remain as active as we can, both physically and mentally. We are producing resources to help combat feelings of loneliness, to nourish faith and to help you continue to feel connected to your friends and community. Resources will continue to be added on a regular basis.



Visit <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources-support-us-challenging-times>

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1** See 23 Across
- 3** Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8** Invalid (4)
- 9** Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11** Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14** Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15** 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17** Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20** Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21** Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22** Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23** and **1** Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1** Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2** James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4** 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5** 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6** St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7** Swirling current of water (4)
- 10** Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12** 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13** Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16** 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18** David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19** Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

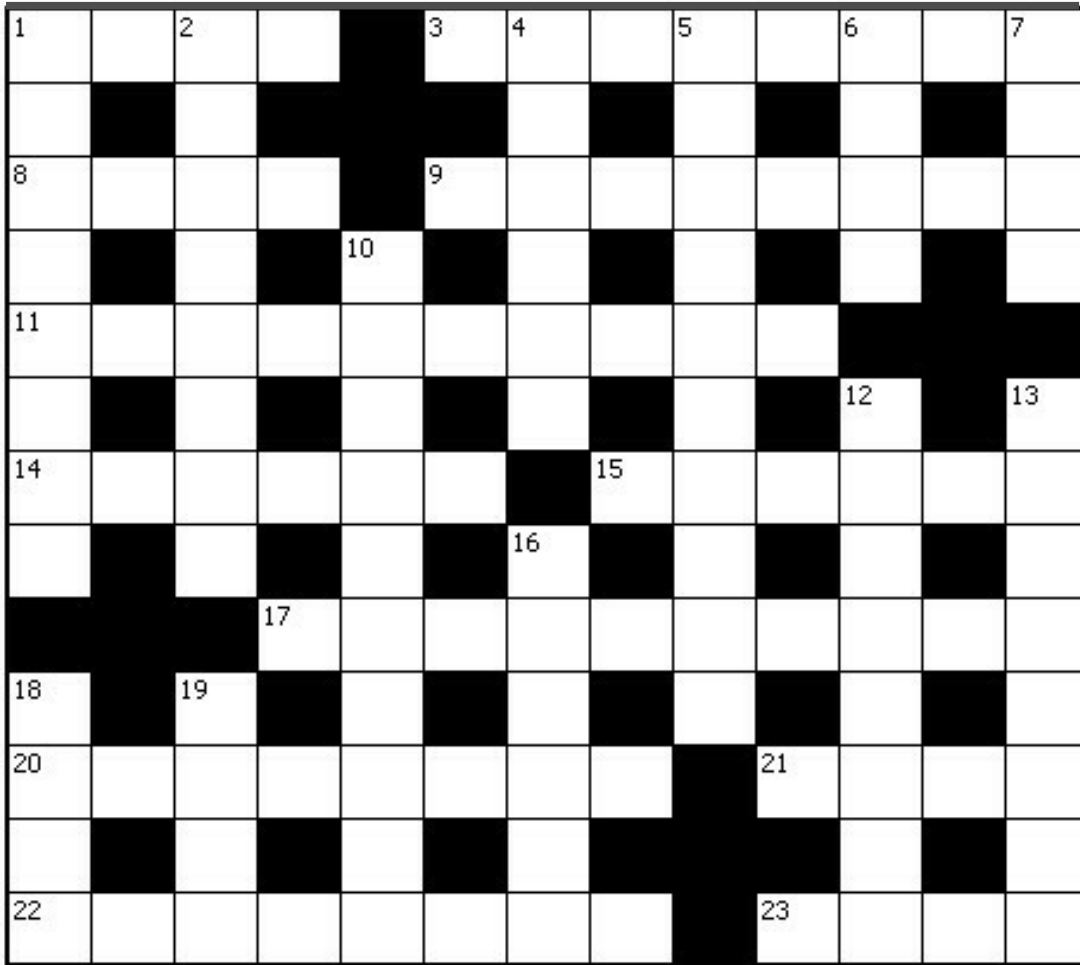


JULY 2020 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Friday 12th June

PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 27th June

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

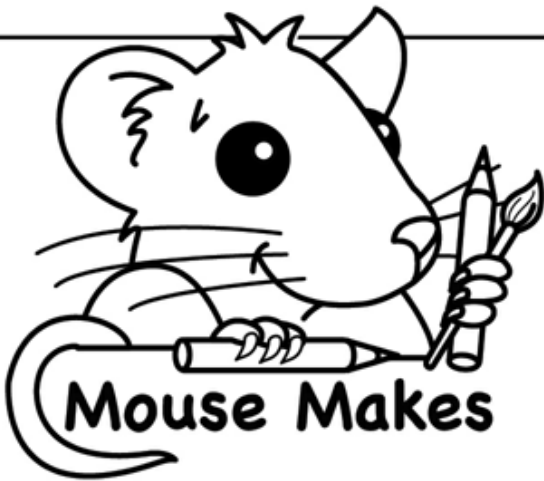


Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)



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

Answers are on page 31



Mouse Makes

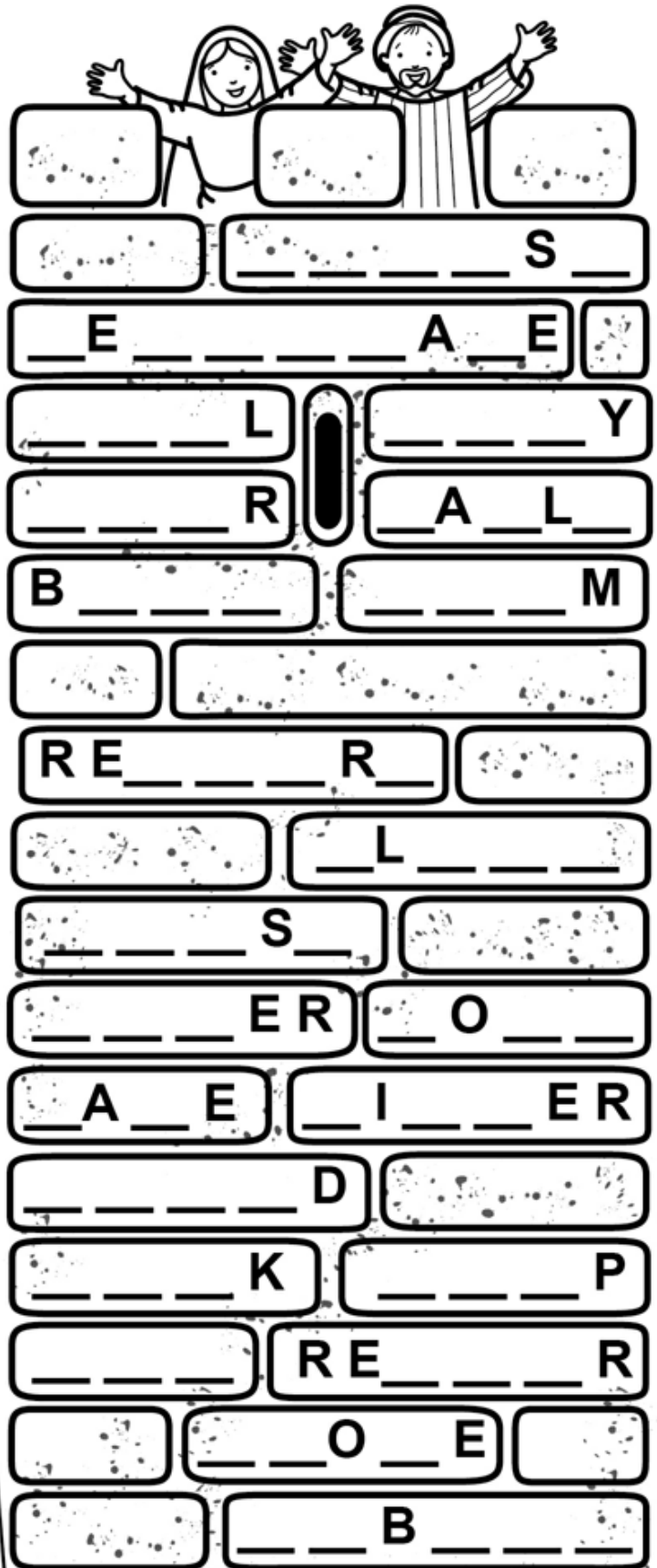
When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

READ Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRAY | <input type="checkbox"/> GATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RUBBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> BEAM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REPAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> BOLT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORE | <input type="checkbox"/> BAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILD | <input type="checkbox"/> STEP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WORK | <input type="checkbox"/> TOWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STONE | <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TIMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> POOL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WALLS | <input type="checkbox"/> FINISH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLOOR | <input type="checkbox"/> DEDICATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROOF | <input type="checkbox"/> DOOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CELEBRATE | |



How many gates were repaired?
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?

JUNE WORDSEARCH

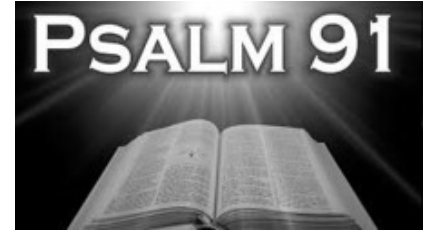
Coronavirus has turned our world upside down. But God is still there, and we can call on Him, as Psalm 91 reminds us ...

*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."*

*Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.*

*He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

*You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.*



Answers are on page 31



ALMIGHTY
ARROW
COVER
DEADLY
DESTROYS
DWELLS
FAITHFULNESS
FEAR
FEATHERS
FORTRESS
HIGH
MOST
NIGHT
PESTILENCE
PLAGUE
RAMPART
REFUGE
SAVE
SHADOW
SHELTER
SHIELD
SNARE
TERROR
TRUST
WINGS



UMBERSLADE™
ARBORICULTURE

**Professional Qualified tree surgeon.
Grounds & hedge maintenance services.**

Fully insured.
Environmental promise.
All green waste recycled.
New Hi-tech electrical equipment to reduce CO2.

Mob - 07776191218

Tel - 01564332938

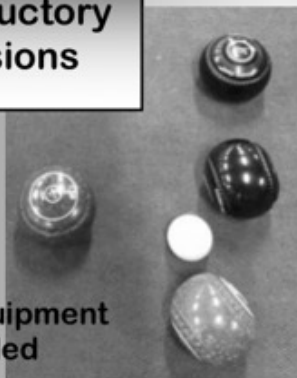
Email - edwardh@umbersldearboriculture.co.uk

www.umbersldearb.co.uk

We would like to invite you
to come along to
Solihull Indoor Bowls Club

**4 free
introductory
sessions**

with all equipment
provided



**come
along
and
make
new
friends,
have
fun
and
keep
fit**

We also have an excellent
FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE
suitable for parties, weddings,
societies, social group
meetings, wakes and other
special events



We have a well stocked bar
that also serves hot and cold drinks
to ensure your special event
is all that you want it to be.

bowling@solihullindoorbowlsclub.co.uk

Solihull Indoor Bowls Club

Brick Kiln Lane Solihull B91 3LE **0121 709 2233**
www.solihullindoorbowlsclub.co.uk Charity number 1094579

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | D | W | E | L | L | S | G | S | T | R | I | E |
| C | E | E | F | E | S | R | E | A | D | H | D | |
| N | S | H | E | L | T | E | R | E | F | U | G | E |
| E | T | A | I | V | R | P | S | Y | R | T | A | |
| L | R | W | R | O | O | T | R | R | T | A | D | D |
| I | O | T | C | R | C | R | A | E | H | M | M | L |
| T | Y | S | H | A | D | O | W | H | G | P | P | Y |
| S | S | E | N | L | U | F | H | T | I | A | F | P |
| E | W | U | E | A | D | E | S | A | M | R | G | L |
| P | M | I | R | N | R | O | N | E | L | T | R | A |
| A | H | R | N | T | M | E | L | F | A | S | R | G |
| S | O | T | H | G | I | N | H | G | I | H | E | U |
| W | E | E | V | A | S | I | T | S | F | N | R | E |



Where was the social distancing?

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

Fully qualified **LADIES AND GENTLEMENS** Hairdresser

Available for appointments in the comfort
of your own home

Please Telephone **CLAIRE** on

01564 794684 or **07931 751 451**

COZY TOES

Bev Hughes DipCFhp

Mobile Foot Health Practitioner

07764636468 or

0121 451 3586



OFFERING A FRIENDLY,
RELIABLE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE AT AFFORDABLE PRICE

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

TREATMENT INCLUDES:-

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

eglc EARLSWOOD[®]

GARDEN & LANDSCAPE CENTRE

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



✿ Best ever plant centre with fresh stock arriving daily

✿ Comprehensive range of garden products

✿ Lovely Coffee Shop by Wedges Bakery

EARLSWOOD GARDEN & LANDSCAPE CENTRE

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

t. 01564 702 314

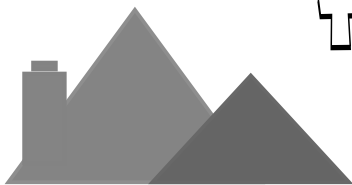
e. info@earlswoodglc.co.uk

www.earlswoodglc.co.uk



PARISH FUNERALS

| | | | |
|-----|------|------------------------------|----|
| May | 1st | Patricia Anne Howard | 87 |
| | 6th | Patricia Summerside Pittaway | 84 |
| | 7th | Peter Harry Millard | 83 |
| | 13th | Doreen Evans | 90 |
| | 14th | Donald Charles Hodesdon | 91 |
| | 15th | Peter Gilpin | 83 |
| | 19th | Doris Lilian Whitehouse | 93 |
| | 20th | Reta Maris Stiles | 89 |
| | 21st | Reginald Arthur Boughton | 91 |
| | 21st | Sheila Evelyn Boughton | 84 |
| | 21st | Phyliss Lytton Fowler | 95 |
| | 28th | Margaret Davidson | |



The Roof Repair Co.

Leaking roof

24 hour
service

From A Minor Repair To A New Roof

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

Guttering Re-
paired &
Cleaned Out
from £25

Registered with Age Concern

Repairs
from as lit-
tle as £35

FREE QUOTATION Without Obligation

FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

0121 604 2104 / 07956 228 842

Flowers and Plants for Every Occasion



Vi STEVENS LTD



Floral Designers

Personal Attention to All your Floral Requirements

391 Stratford Road, Shirley. Tel: 0121 745 5847 www.vistevensflorist.co.uk

GLENFIELD
HOUSE
NURSING HOME

an elegant house in
rural surroundings....



For further information or a viewing
please contact Glenfield directly
or visit our website

www.glenfieldhouse.co.uk

Tel: 01564 823795



A Home from Home in the Countryside

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

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

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

**FOR ANY ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE PLEASE CONTACT
THE PARISH OFFICE OR THE EDITOR -**

Gill Hanton, 200 Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath B90 1PF

Telephone : 0121 733 2347 or 07973 942145

Email : shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com

*Whilst every care is taken to ensure that the contents of the magazine are correct,
the Parish cannot be responsible for any errors that may occur in the editorial or
advertisements, nor for the actions of the advertisers.*

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE *continued*

READERS

Kate Day Tel: 0121 537 9672
 email: kate_day@me.com

Gill Gough Tel: 0121 603 2636
 email: g.gough@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah Penfold Tel: 0121 681 1525
 email: sarahpenfold@blueyonder.co.uk

Denise Smith Tel: 01564 822606
 email: deesmith1181@hotmail.com

Graham Smith Tel: 01564 822606
 email: graydeecentaur@hotmail.com

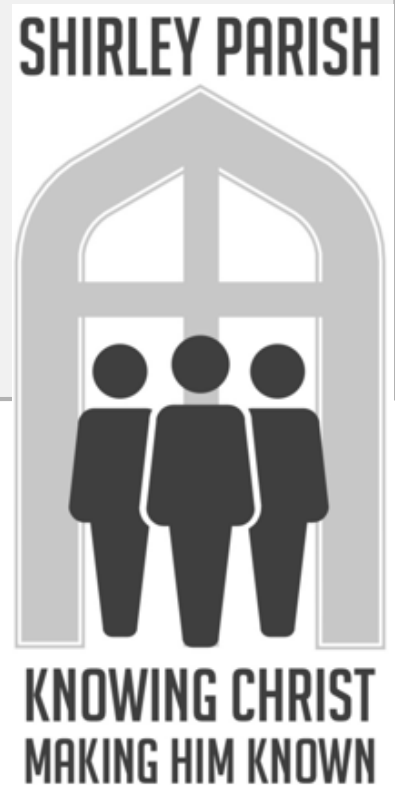
CHURCH WARDENS

Parish Wardens
 Margaret Foreshew Tel: 0121 603 9833
 email: mhforeshew@gmail.com
 Gill Hanton Tel: 0121 733 2347
 email: gill.hanton@btinternet.com

Deputy Wardens - St James the Great Church
 Kate Crocker Linda Pitt
 Tel: 0121 258 2956 Tel: 0121 744 6777

Deputy Wardens - Christ the King Church
 Denise Smith Graham Smith
 Tel: 01564 822606 Tel: 01564 822606

Deputy Wardens - St John the Divine Church
 Linda Alford Sue Barnard
 Tel: 0121 430 4785 Tel: 0121 430 4453



MUSIC

Bellringers - St James the Great Church
 Colin Baugh
 Tel: 0121 744 1361

Organist & Choirmaster - St James the Great Church
 Kevin Gill
 Tel: 0121 705 0987

Organist - St John the Divine Church
 Shirley Beedon

PCC SECRETARY Belinda Piasecki - email: belinda.piasecki@hotmail.co.uk
 Tel: 0121 244 9637

PCC TREASURER David Paice - email: dlpaice2@talktalk.net
 Tel: 0121 745 8896 (c/o Parish Office)

SAFEGUARDING Tel: 0121 745 8896 (c/o Parish Office)

Registered Charity number 1131912



C Bastock Ltd

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors since 1856

Shirley Funeral Home

100, Stratford Road
Shirley. B90 3BH
0121 726 2626

Solihull Funeral Home

67-71 Warwick Road,
Solihull. B92 7HP
0121 706 4040

Yardley Funeral Home

112 Church Road,
Yardley. B26 8UX
0121 784 3230



Whether you have a traditional, contemporary or eco funeral in mind our family are here to help you. Our dedicated team will guide you through the choices and decisions to ensure a unique and befitting funeral.

Specialist provider of Pre-Paid Funeral Plans
Peace of mind with secure affordable options

Free, no obligation help and advice.

www.cbastock.co.uk



Bastock & Bruce Ltd

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



A partnership between C. Bastock Ltd and Bruce Bragg

Bruce is now the only remaining member of the Bragg family still in the industry following the sale of the family business in Shirley. This partnership brings a family business to Knowle with generations of experience ensuring the truly personal service you would expect from an independent business.

Knowle Funeral Home

Brisker Court, 1685, High Street, Knowle. B93 0LN

01564 335577 (24 hour)

Serving all the surrounding areas

If Knowle is difficult to get to we will happily visit you at home or you can meet Bruce at any of the Bastock funeral homes.

www.bastockandbruce.co.uk