



**Shirley
Parish**

Christ the King
St James the Great
St John the Divine

March 2025 Magazine



SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

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

facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@shirleyparish5736>

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4904334906>



CHURCH HOUSE (opposite St James Church), Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX

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

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

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Deadline for information and articles for next month's magazine: 12th of the month

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.

Registered Charity number 1131912

OUR SERVICES IN MARCH

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
	3.30pm	Reflective Worship	St James Church
Wednesday 5th	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion with the Imposition of Ashes	St James Church
Thursday 6th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 9th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church
Thursday 13th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 16th	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Thursday 20th	10.30am	Holy Communion	Church House
Sunday 23rd	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Worship 4 Everyone	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church
Thursday 27th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 30th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church

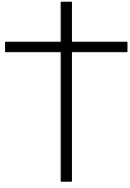
**PLEASE CHECK FOR ANY CHANGES TO OUR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES ON THE
WEEKLY NOTICE SHEET, SOCIAL MEDIA OR ON OUR WEBSITE
<https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk>**

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

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the February winners

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PALM CROSSES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

This year Ash Wednesday falls on 5th March marking the beginning of the season of Lent, and once again, I plan to use the palm crosses given out last year to make the ash. Therefore, would you please bring any palm crosses you have into St James Church where there is a box on the right-hand side when you come in. Or, just let me know you have some and I can arrange a collection.

The plan is to make the ash on Tuesday the 4th, Shrove Tuesday, in the yard at the back of the Church House kitchen after the Welcome Café has finished at 11.30am; and anyone who would like join me in making the ash is welcome, just let me know in advance that you would like to come.



The ash will then be used for our Eucharist service in St James at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th where we will impose the ashes upon all who would this done.

If you would like to know more, please feel free to get in touch.

Reverend Richard Haynes

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Mothers' UNION

Our branch AGM was held in Church House on Wednesday 5th of February. Reverend Paul Day opened meeting, welcomed all, and Linda Pitt commenced with prayers. The minutes of last year's AGM held on the 7th of February 2024 were read out by Mary Appleby and accepted as a true record of the meeting. The branch report covering last year was given by Liz Yates, followed by the Treasurer's report. Susan Knight went through the circulated Statement of Accounts with explanations where necessary. Donations to the following have been made by the branch:-

AFIA £250.00
 B'ham Fund £100.00
 Overseas £150.00
 Prisoners Children's Gifts £30.00

It was proposed and seconded that the accounts for 2024 be adopted and all present, were in favour.

Thanks were expressed to Paul Smith for inspecting the accounts.

The committee was voted en bloc for the forthcoming year and remains unchanged.

There were no offers from the floor to join.

Following the formal business, refreshments were served.

The triennial theme for 2025-2027, following on from "Transformation Now!", is: JOIN US and JOIN IN! MU is changing lives. This triennial theme builds on Transformation Now!

We look forward to welcoming the Reverend Rich Brooker to our next meeting on **Wednesday the 5th of March** at 2pm in Church House who will be speaking on his Chaplaincy work, both for Warwickshire Police and Nationally.

Visitors are most welcome to any of our meetings.

Susan Knight

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LIVING HOPE



Our Lent Conversations this year will be picking up the theme of Living Hope.

The hope God offers is not wishful thinking. It is something alive, robust and certain. In the disappointments and struggles of daily life and the pain of deeper hurts we will discover that God is present with us through it all. And God promises a future where all things are healed and made new. This is the Living Hope we will be thinking about and talking about.

Booklets will be available with a reading and a thought for each day in Lent, and our weekly conversations will draw on our daily readings as we explore facets of this hope. These daily readings are also available through the Church of England Everyday Faith app.

The theme will be picked up on Ash Wednesday, 5th March, in the service at 7.30pm at St James Church, then continued throughout Lent to Holy Week and Easter.

Our conversations will be on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings in Lent.

Wednesdays at 2pm in Church House – 12th, 19th, 26th March; 2nd April (in St James Church), 9th April.

Thursdays at 7.30pm in Church House – 13th, 20th, 27th March; 3rd, 10th April.

We hope you will be able to join us for some or all of these conversations.

Reverend Paul Day

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women, and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries worldwide on the first Friday in March.

Each year the service is prepared by women from a different country. This year the celebration has been written by Christian women of the Cook Islands. Their theme is "I made you wonderful" based on Psalm 139.

Both women and men are welcome to join in this service of Prayer and Action for peace and justice.

Shirley Churches Together share this celebration and take turns to host the event. This year we are all (women and men) invited to

Shirley Baptist Church at 10.30am on Friday 7th March

So please join us as part of a wonderful wave of prayer which encircles the world in this joyful celebration of unity. praying with and for the people of the Cook Islands.

Gill Gough



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in Church House**

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**COFFEE
 MORNING**

10.30am

**Monday
 10th March**



**St John's Church, 176 Tilehouse Lane,
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WELCOME CAFE

We have started a new year and it seems the weekly café is still very busy.

We this year have all got a café apron – with thanks to Jan Dalton for producing them for us; this helps everyone know who we all are and that they can approach any one of us about food allergies or what we have on offer that day as it changes every week.

I would like to thank everyone for your weekly donations as that helps to keep us going and also for digging extra deep when we do a fund raiser café for various charities. We hope in the near future to do one for raising Awareness of Mental Health.

Thank you for supporting us, love Dee, Sarah, Pat and Myra

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SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

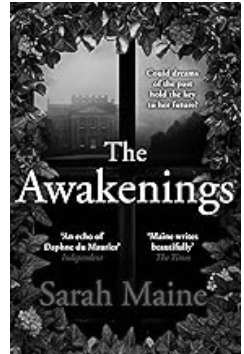
The Book of Beginnings by Sally Page

This book led to an interesting discussion, some of the group felt the story was irritating and a bit ' twee', whilst others liked the story and the way the themes unfolded. The themes of friendship and change were highlighted by some, as they identified with undergoing a period of change in their own lives. Some loved the historical references with the lives of people buried in Highgate Cemetery. It was a nice comfortable read, easy to pick up and put down.

Everyone then talked about the other books that they had read during the last few weeks, thrillers, detective stories, contemporary and historical fiction.

Our next book is **The Awakenings** by **Sarah Maine**. We'll be discussing this at our next meeting on **Monday 17th March** in Church House. Do come and join us, tea, coffee and biscuits available!

Belinda Piasecki



JIMMY TOTS

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SOLIHULL ULVERLEY TREFOIL GUILD



Solihull Ulverley Trefoil Guild meets on the first Monday in the month in Church House 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Trefoil is all about finding a space for you to be you, where you can make new friends, try new activities, learn new skills, and support your community - however small or large it is.

Our meetings cover a varied choice of activities including our annual Harvest Supper, craft, quizzes, taking part in International, Regional and County events and off-site visits. Recently we were privileged to be involved in sewing some of the knitted poppies onto the waterfall that was hung from St James Church Tower for Remembrance.

At our meeting on the 3rd of March to mark Thinking Day, we will be going on a Guiding World Tour from the comfort of Church House.

Visitors are always welcome whether you are involved in Girlguiding or not, Trefoil Guild is a wonderful opportunity to meet like-minded people to share your next adventure - whatever that might be! For more information, please contact Mary Allsopp – email: maryallsopp@yahoo.co.uk or Susan Knight – email: susanknight138@gmail.com.



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Mothers' UNION

PERIOD POVERTY

Period Poverty is the issue of people struggling to afford period products.

In the UK, period poverty is increasing due to the cost of living crisis.

In 2023, 21% of people who menstruate struggled to afford period products.

'All who are affected have the right to manage their periods without shame or stigma'.

During the six weeks of Lent we would welcome donations of sanitary towels, tampons and maternity pads. If anyone is not comfortable buying these items themselves they can make a donation and the items will then be purchased on their behalf.

Donations can be left in St James Church or at the Parish Office.

TOOTHBRUSHES FOR CHILDREN

A collection of children's toothbrushes and toothpaste is also being made.

Every child needs their own toothbrush and should not need to go without or share with someone else.

Thank you for your support, *Linda Pitt*

THE POD PROJECT



After over two years of praying, planning and fund-raising (not to mention overcoming some massive last-minute hitches) the building work to install a toilet and kitchenette in St James Church began on Monday 3rd February.

The work is expected to take about eight weeks and there may be some disruption to normal activities in the Church while the work is going on.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who has contributed in any way to the project.

Have you got a sewing machine that is looking for a new home as you don't use it?

Please contact Pam Owen or the Parish Office if you can help.



HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES

FOOD BANK: we were very upset recently when one of our clients was stabbed to death, allegedly by one of his house mates in a HMO (House of Multiple Occupancy). He was a most interesting man originally from Iran who was always ready to discuss philosophy. He was about to be baptised at St John's Sparkhill. Yet another terrible death by stabbing.

It's strange how there are cycles of requests. Towards the end of last year we were being asked for small saucepans and thanks to your generous donations we were able to (very sparingly - sorry for the split infinitive, you purists!) help folks with not only a saucepan but also a wooden spoon to stir its contents. Since then we have had a series of folks with no cooking facilities bar a kettle. Thus the current request for instant mash and noodles, cup a soups, instant custard, pots of porridge, and anything else of that ilk.

In an effort to encourage breast feeding, it's our policy not to offer Baby Food Powder, though we do occasionally offer it to HIV mothers who don't breast feed. We do offer baby biscuits and jars of meals which help with a family's budget.

Every week we are asked for nappies, larger sizes usually because midwives can help with the first sizes, and wet wipes. I have a particular soft spot for nappies since many years ago Margaret Barber and I dealt with a two year old who had been in the same nappy all day and was soaked through his trousers, socks and shoes! It broke our hearts.

GrowBaby has reopened on Tuesday mornings in term time by appointment, which allows the helpers to give more attention to each mother (and they usually are the mothers though the occasional Midwife and Health Visitor goes for supplies). Currently they are looking for two Moses baskets with bedding, nappy cream and first size feeding bottles.

Another year and such need, very sad, thanks for your help, *Elizabeth Paice*

CLIMATE JUSTICE

The gap between rich and poor is a reflection on how far we fall short of God's plans for us! People in the global south struggle to make a living for themselves from subsistence farming while producing luxury crops and goods for export to wealthier nations. They contribute least to the pollution which causes global warming yet are most at risk from the extremes of weather brought by climate change.

What can we do about this injustice? Buying fairly traded produce and supporting campaigns which protect and assist producers are two worthwhile actions and there is plenty of information to be found on the Transform Trade website. (Sainsburys stock Fairly Traded cashews)

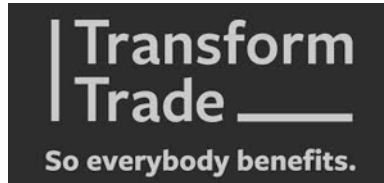
<https://www.transform-trade.org>

The PCC has also agreed that the Parish should support a project run by Transform Trade to support cashew nut farmers in Tanzania. A small monthly donation will help to develop a business which produces this very nutritious product in a climate-friendly way, giving income to the farmers to care for and educate their families, then extending the project to employ more workers.

<https://www.transform-trade.org/cashews>

Part of our commitment as an Ecochurch is to reach out to poor communities with prayer and practical help. Please pray for this small, hard-working group as they try to make a difference for their community in such an ethical and thoughtful way.

Kate Crocker



LITTLE NICK – CHASTENED AND STIRRED

‘It’s time’, said Sarah with a determined look on her face. I tried to hide under the rug, but she was in full flow. ‘It’s time that you stopped lazing about watching endless episodes of Death in Paradise and pricing the houses on Escape to the Country. You need to pull your weight.’ I discovered that pulling my weight meant resuming my role as roving parish reporter which is a mixed blessing as it means I have to turn up to things in order to write about them. And while I do enjoy them when I get there, I don’t much like going out when it is cold or wet.

So I started explaining that I didn’t think people really wanted to read what I write because either they had been there anyway or they weren’t interested, but that was immediately sat on because apparently I have ‘a unique view of parish life which may be a little cynical but allows others to feel they don’t have to agree with everyone else’. Also, as I enjoy reading the Parish Magazine had it not occurred to me (actually Sarah didn’t word it quite like that) that unless people write things there can be no magazine. Soon I found myself on a stool in the kitchen, pencil and paper on the worktop in front of me, knowing that I would not be fed until I had filled the sheet.

As a result I seem to be resuming my previous role. Unless that is enough other people write things, and the Editor can breathe a sigh of relief as she is unable to find room for mine. So, you could take pity on an small, but aging, soft toy kitten and rescue me from writing duties. Then I could watch yet another Bargain Hunt.

Nicodemus Penfold

One time Parish Raconteur (in danger of being pulled from retirement)

CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS

The English painter, Stanley Spencer, (1891-1959) produced a series of works entitled: *'Christ in the Wilderness'*. During this time of Lent Spencer's paintings offer an opportunity to reflect and consider some of the themes that inspired his art.

Spencer was born and lived in Cookham, Surrey and many of the figures he paints depict the people of Cookham in a variety of biblical scenes. For example, the painting called *'The Hen'* shows an unusual Christ figure, much larger than we might imagine, in the wilderness watching a hen with her brood. There are cockerels in the background keeping guard as it were. (See page 17)

In the gospels of Matthew and Luke we read: 'O Jerusalem...how often have I longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings...' The metaphor represents the tender love and protection that Jesus offers to those who trust in Him. It's notable that the group in Spencer's painting is joined by a different bird which appears to be an outsider giving the sense that everyone, of whatever race or creed, is welcomed into the generous love and protection of God.

God's enduring love found a place in the hearts of the Desert Fathers and Mothers who were early Christian monastics living in solitude in the deserts of Egypt, Palestine and Syria. They left behind the comforts of society to pursue a life dedicated to contemplation and prayer.

A former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, wrote in his book, *The Wisdom of the Desert*, 'The journey into the desert is a journey into a particular kind of spaciousness'. Spacious, perhaps, in a way that leads us to re-think what we need to change or improve in our lives.

May God, grant you space and a time for reflection in this time of Lent as you draw near to Christ in the Wilderness.

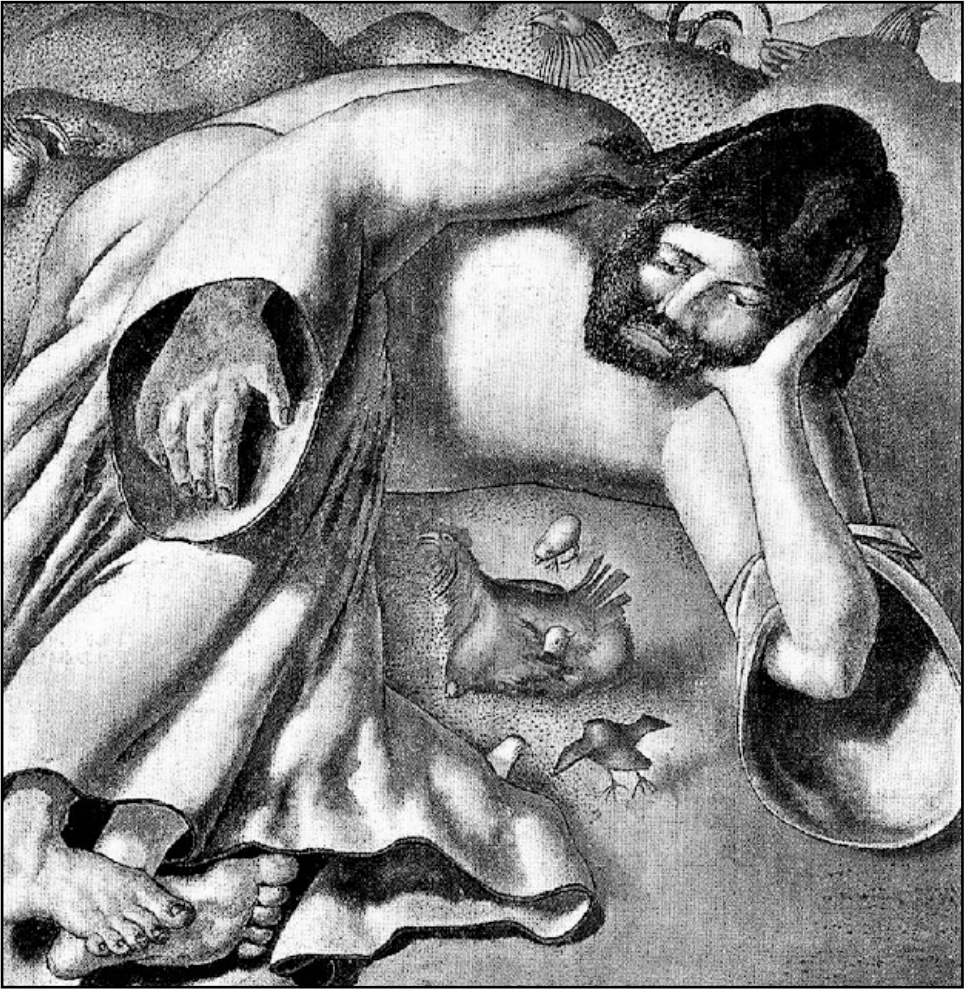
Reverend Theresa Jones



Walking is good for you ...



join the Nordic, or not, walking group on
Monday 17th March - see the weekly Notice
 Sheet for more details or contact -
 Jan Gardner - 07790 377210 or
jangardner2203@gmail.com



The Friends of St James



**Saturday
22nd March**

10.30am

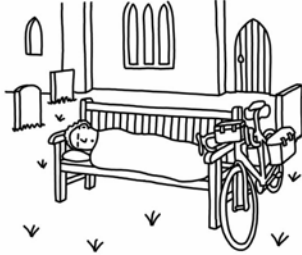
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with jigsaws, coffee & cake

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PROJECT



PLACE TO REMEMBER

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from 2pm



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If you, or someone that you know, would like to have a stall at the Fete please get in touch. Also, if you will be able to help on the day please let us know.

THE BRUMMIE QUIZ

Thank you to all who took part in the quiz, hopefully you had fun!

£100.00 was raised and this will go towards the new kitchen pod in St James Church.

There were twenty one entries handed in, of which five were all correct.

These were submitted by Sue Barnard, Nigel Smith, Mel and John Richards, Chris and Phil Owen and Denise Smith.

Well done to the winners.

Linda Pitt

Here are the answers ...

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Shirley | 11 Redditch | 21 Lichfield |
| 2 Kingstanding | 12 Bearwood | 22 Digbeth |
| 3 Moseley | 13 Gravelly Hill | 23 Jewellery Quarter |
| 4 Tile Cross | 14 Hall Green | 24 Bull Ring |
| 5 Four Oaks | 15 Saltley | 25 Aston |
| 6 Perry Barr | 16 Walsall | 26 Tipton |
| 7 Halesowen | 17 Handsworth | 27 Acocks Green |
| 8 Wylde Green | 18 Sparkhill | 28 Longbridge |
| 9 Nuneaton | 19 Northfield | 29 Elmdon |
| 10 Small Heath | 20 Oldbury | 30 Wednesfield |
| | | 31 Meriden |
| | | 32 Kingswinford |



Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James

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Principal - Mrs H Lynch

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

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Phone: 0121 744 7897 office@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk www.stjames.tgacademy.org.uk

MOTHERING SUNDAY - March 30th

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

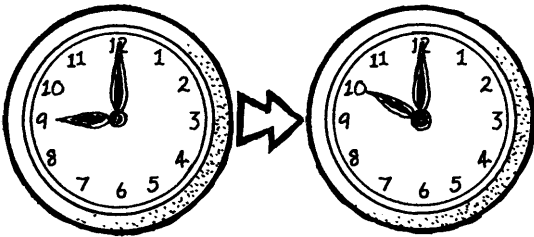
Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME IS UPON US!



Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour on Sunday 30th March!

THE EASTER JOURNEY 2025

During the week commencing **Monday 31st March** local school children will be visiting St James Church to learn about the Easter story. Please pray for all those involved and note that, for safeguarding reasons, access to the church will be restricted at times.





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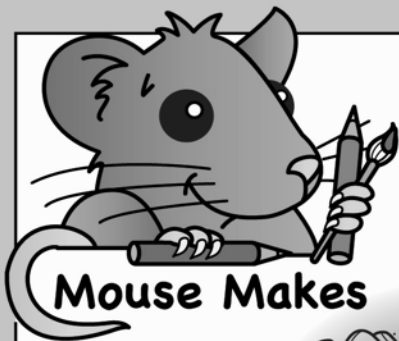
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THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

Luke 4:2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

Luke 4:3

*What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
see Luke 4:14-15*

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

Luke 4:8



READ

the story in
Luke 4:1-13

Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

Luke 4:12



JESUS • LED
WILDERNESS
DESERT
TEMPTATIONS
DAYS • DEVIL
HUNGRY • SON
STONE • ROCK
KINGDOMS
WORLD • GLORY
WRITTEN
SCRIPTURE
WORSHIP • ONLY
SERVE • LORD
JERUSALEM
HIGH • TEMPLE
THROW • DOWN
JUMP • ANGELS
HANDS • HOLD
LIFT • FOOT

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

Find the words from the questions too!

MARCH WORDSEARCH

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday.

Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him.

Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage.

How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

care

desert

disciples

easter

family

fasting

finding

flowers

growing

learning

lent

love

mothers

nursing

nurture

prayer

preparation

repentance

seeking

selfdenial

spiritual

teaching

thankyou

worldwide

e	e	f	e	p	d	n	t	l	y	r	l	g	p	i
l	c	r	t	r	r	y	f	a	m	i	l	y	n	u
a	a	n	e	e	i	a	g	i	e	t	e	n	u	h
c	g	u	a	d	s	h	y	n	n	e	i	i	r	e
u	s	n	t	t	i	o	r	e	i	d	w	r	s	i
o	t	n	i	i	n	w	l	d	r	n	i	t	i	t
y	r	n	r	h	r	e	d	f	w	n	r	n	n	t
k	g	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s	g	a	g	u
n	o	i	t	a	r	a	p	e	r	p	r	k	e	f
a	g	g	n	i	k	e	e	s	r	o	o	r	r	l
h	l	n	t	k	t	a	h	t	i	e	w	t	u	o
t	a	h	r	i	y	s	e	t	h	l	i	n	t	w
a	o	e	l	e	l	t	i	a	o	c	n	a	r	e
t	i	i	p	t	r	e	e	v	l	m	g	d	u	r
p	i	l	d	e	t	r	e	s	e	d	m	f	n	s



Answers are
on page 24

How to choose the right care home?

At Carehome Connect We care about your care...



Choosing a care home can be daunting

- How do I know where to look and what to look for?
- What questions should I be asking a care home?
- What funding can I apply for?

We can support you throughout the process from beginning to end.

Care advice

- Identifying what care is needed
- Advising how to meet care needs
- Discussing options - residential care, nursing care, home care

Care search

- Finding care homes
- Short term care options
- Signposting related services

Care choices

- Researching care options that match your needs
- Information and guidance

Funding advice

- Information about funding
- Advice on how to apply

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WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



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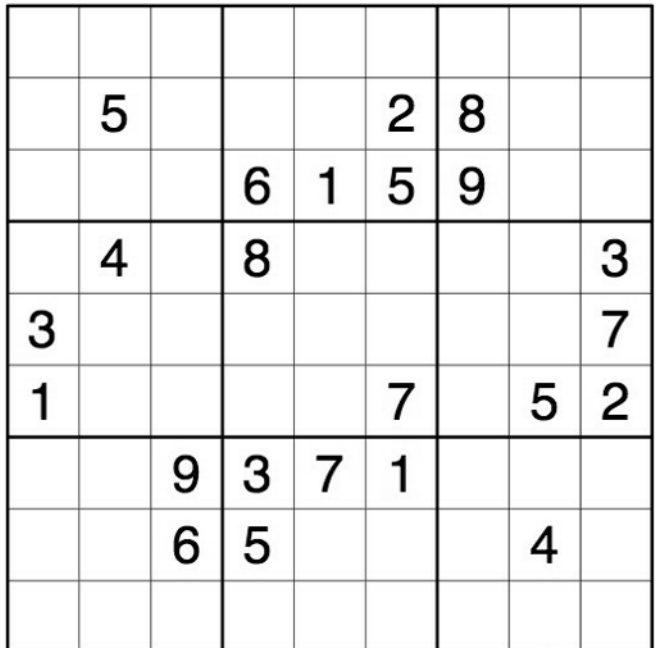
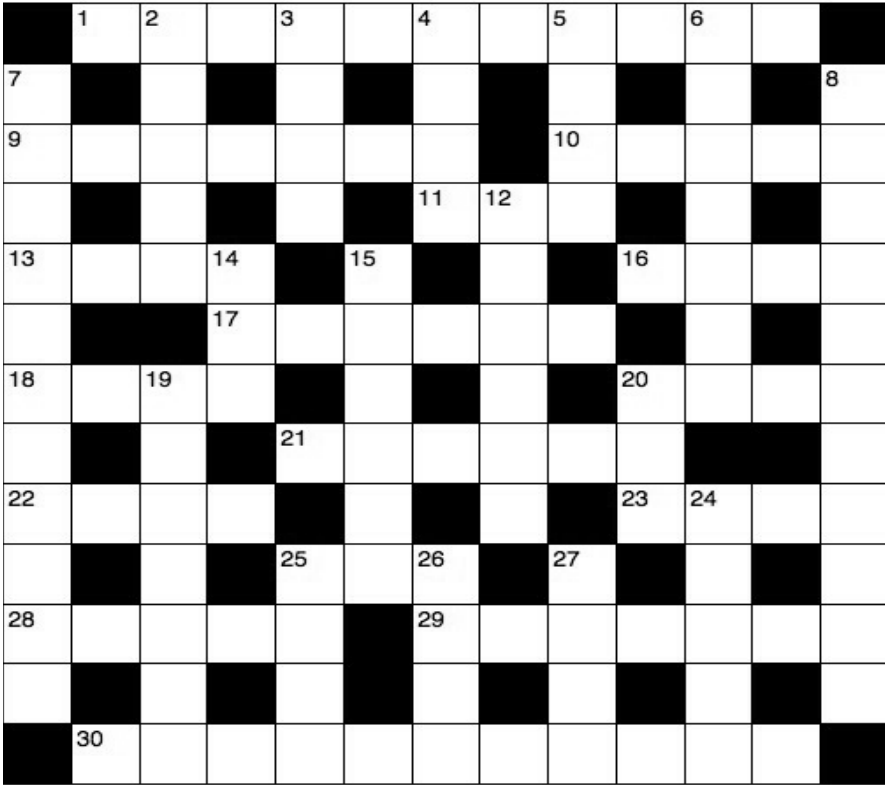
MARCH CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — —' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



Answers are on page 29

IAN COLE

We were saddened to hear of the death of Ian Cole just a few days before Christmas, and many from our churches were able to attend his funeral in January.

His older brother, Richard, had originally thought there would be very few at the funeral – he had no idea of Ian’s various links in the community and churches of the Shirley area. As it was the chapel at Robin Hood was comfortably full.

At the service Richard talked about Ian’s struggles with his autism and how that affected his life. There were some great stories which resonated with the memories many of us had of Ian. Two stories stood out for me.

Like many people with autism, Ian was a hoarder. In his younger years he hoarded screws and plugs. He used to go with his mother to visit her friends at various coffee mornings. Ian would often take a pocketful of old screws and a screwdriver with him. While there, he would head off to the loo and carefully unscrew the shiny screws holding toilet roll holders to the wall and replace them with his old rusty ones. Gradually his mother’s friends began to notice, and it soon became apparent that they had all been affected. They wanted to start a “we have been screwed by Ian Cole” club!

Later, envelopes became his passion. Not the contents just the envelopes themselves. Ian managed to acquire a litter picker and as he walked the streets of Shirley would often see envelopes in people’s porches. He would carefully extract them with his litter picker, open them, discard the contents and take the envelopes home. If you have ever come home and found your post spread over your front garden and the envelopes nowhere to be seen this might explain the mystery! Richard said that when his and Ian’s mum died, he had to clear the house and took more than a ton of envelopes to the tip!

Ian had many health problems – high blood pressure, diabetes and more – and he died peacefully in his sleep as his heart gave out.

We will all miss you Ian – we will miss your bizarre streams of questions; the bagful of sandwiches and the Disney tee shirt. Thank you for the memories – may you rest in peace and rise in glory!

Reverend Paul Day



PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

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



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PARISH REGISTERS - JANUARY

Baptisms

26th Rebecca Harriet Page
Sebastian Blake Page



Funerals

10th Elizabeth Helen Wells Swartz

21st Fanny (Nancy) Mabel Jones

29th Sylvia Elizabeth Standbridge

30th Reginald Howard Bayliss

31st Donald Abbey



PRAY WITH US



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

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE *continued*

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Linda Alford
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SAFEGUARDING

Sue Harries
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***As you all know we are a parish that takes safeguarding very seriously.
Everyone who comes to our churches deserves to feel included and
very importantly, safe.***

***If anything is concerning you, please talk to Sue Harries, Safeguarding Co-ordinator,
or Paul Day, Vicar.***

We must all look after one another.



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