



**Shirley
Parish**

Christ the King
St James the Great
St John the Divine

July & August 2024 Magazine

ALL
GOOD
GIFTS
AROUND
US ARE
SENT
FROM
HEAVEN
ABOVE
SO
THANK
THE
LORD



SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

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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

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Email : shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com

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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 JULY

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Thursday 4th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 7th	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
	6pm	Reflective Worship	St James Church
Thursday 11th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 14th	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 18th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 20th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 21st	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Thursday 25th St James Day	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 28th	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

Nicene Creed Sermon Series	Date	Readings		
God Incarnate	July 7th	Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7	Galatians 4: 1-7	Matthew 1: 18-25
Death of Jesus	July 14th	Isaiah 53: 3-10	1 Corinthians 1: 18-25	Mark 15: 25-39
The Resurrection	July 21st	Psalms 16: 5-11	1 Corinthians 15: 12-22	Luke 24: 1-12

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

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the June winners
£50 ~ Pauline Daniels £25 ~ Margaret Priddey

OUR SERVICES IN AUGUST

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Thursday 1st	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 4th	10.30am	Parish Communion	St James Church
	6pm	Reflective Worship	St James Church
Thursday 8th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 11th	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 15th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 17th	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 18th	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ the King Church
Thursday 22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 25th	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 29th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church

Nicene Creed Sermon Series	Date	Readings		
The Ascension	August 4th	Psalm 24: 1-10	Ephesians 1: 15-23	Luke 24: 44-end
Judgement	August 11th	Daniel 7: 9-14	2 Timothy 4: 1-5	Matthew 25: 31-46
God the Holy Spirit	August 18th	Ezekiel 36: 24-28	Romans 8: 9-17	John 14: 15-26
The Church	August 25th	Isaiah 2: 1-4	Ephesians 4: 1-6	Matthew 16: 13-20

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



POPPY UPDATE

I am writing this from holiday near Poole in Dorset, on a beautiful sunny morning. I may be away but poppies are not far from my mind and I thought you may like an update on how the project is progressing.

A target of 3000 poppies was set, a number set after rough calculations of how many poppies would be needed to cover one square metre.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the target has been reached!

I am aware that there are still a lot of poppies that have not been handed in yet and are coming from as far away as Cornwall and Shetland.

Please can I suggest that if you are still knitting, finish the ball of wool or your target number and hand them in to the Parish Office.



The next issue is to decide how and what the poppies are going to be attached to, to enable them to be hung from the church tower. Any suggestions will be very welcome.

A huge vote of thanks to all of you who have contributed to the project so far.

Linda Pitt

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Email - DecoratingPlus@hotmail.co.uk

**Thank*
*you!**

A big 'thank you' to everyone that supported the Craft Sale at Shirley Institute that was advertised in the May magazine. Over £800 has been raised for



**Alzheimer's
Society**

NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S

It's been a busy few weeks at St John's Church and, thanks to Tar Drives of Acocks Green, we now have a lovely, trip hazard free and step free path from the car park and a parking space in front of the church (which made use of the old paving slabs).

Graham Darley (GJD Property Maintenance Solutions) has painted the church inside (the paint colour chosen by the congregation was appropriately called 'Hope Springs Eternal') and outside and attended to the repairs highlighted in our Quinquennial Report.

We extend a big 'thank you' to our regular givers and all those that have supported our coffee mornings and fund raising events over the years which made it possible to have this work done. A special mention too for Linda Alford for all her time and effort spent organising and supervising the work.

Simon Marshall continues to keep our grass looking good and members of the congregation attend to the shrubs and garden.

We are looking forward to celebrating our 100th birthday with everyone in May 2025.



Our next
Coffee Mornings
are

10.30 am - 12 noon



**Monday 8th July
& Monday 12th
August**

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Mothers' UNION

Val Sperrey opened the June meeting with a warm welcome to all and introduced our speaker Rev. Kathy Lloyd Roberts for a talk on 'How I Became a Vicar.'

Kathy gave us a very lively and amusing talk on her journey to becoming a vicar starting at the age of twelve, way before the Ordination of women priests. Kathy qualified as a primary school teacher, later moving over into further education. During this time, she married Alwyn and raised a family. In 2003 the call was still there, and she embarked on her journey through Queen's College in Birmingham as a part-time student to train to become a priest whilst continuing working full time.

Kathy accepted a placement at St Mary's Church, Temple Balsall and after being ordained in 2006 was appointed curate there. In 2007 the Vicar at St. Mary's, Rev. James Woodward, was appointed to the Residentiary Canonry of Saint George's Chapel in Windsor Castle creating a vacancy at St. Mary's. After a long and careful consideration Kathy applied for the post on the closing date. Following a successful interview Kathy was appointed as Master of the Foundation and Vicar of St Mary's Church, Temple Balsall in 2008, which she will continue to tell in part two. Kathy remained at Temple Balsall for thirteen years until retirement. We look forward to welcoming Kathy back next year.

Our next two meetings in Church House are as follows: -

Wednesday 3rd July - 2.00pm – Rev. Nigel Jones talking about his time as a Prison Chaplain

Thursday 1st August - 7.30pm - Desert Island Discs with our castaways Rev Richard and Ruth Haynes

Visitors are most welcome to any of our meetings.

Susan Knight



SHIRLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE Stratford Road, Opp. Longmore Road INDOOR SHORT MAT BOWLING



Wednesdays 1.45 to 2.45pm & 2.50 to 3.50pm

Fridays 9.45 to 11.15am & Tuesdays from 7pm

Wednesday & Friday No Experience Necessary as Tuition Given
Tuesday League Bowling

COME AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK

When I first heard the expression 'Summer Hunger', I totally understood the wish to have a few consecutive, dry, sunny, warm days. However, it turns out I was completely wrong. 'Summer Hunger' is used by charities to refer to the school holidays when young children fail to get the free term time Breakfast Club and lunchtime meals. And they go hungry.

Perhaps we can do something about it this summer holiday? Strengthen the supplies at "our" Food Bank to supplement the extra demand on it? Let's have a special appeal on a particular Sunday (as happened at Easter for Easter eggs) for the types of foods which would usually be given out at the Breakfast Clubs?

The items we have in mind are **UHT milk (full fat or semi skimmed), boxes of cereal, and long-life orange juice.**

When my sons were young, they seemed to be circling the kitchen like hungry sharks all the time, progressing from meal to snack to meal again. But I don't think they really knew what it is to ache with hunger ...



If you are in a position to do so, please, please bring your donation to church on **Sunday July 7th** for us to augment the supplies at "our" Food Bank. St Patrick's are hoping to join in this appeal too so between us we should be able to make a real difference to hungry Little Beings.

Thank you, Elizabeth Paice



The Friends of St James

**SUNDAY
LUNCH**

7th July in Church House



**Tickets are on
sale at the
Parish Office -
£13 - includes a
glass of wine**

SHIRLEY LIONS' CARNIVAL & DOG SHOW

SATURDAY

13th July
Mid-day - 04:30pm
Shirley Park



Main
Beneficiary
to be:-

AgeUK

<https://shirleylions.co.uk/shirleycarnival>

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Monday 19th August**

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Jan Gardner -
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or 07790 377 210 for more information



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SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

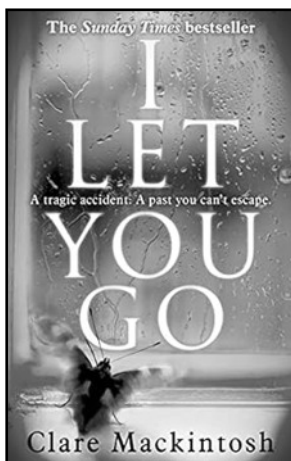
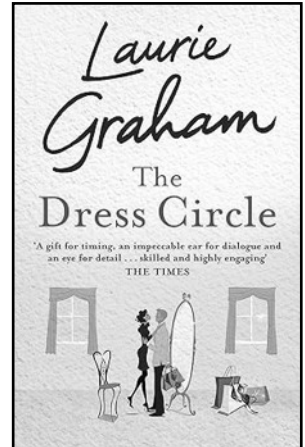
The Dress Circle by Laurie Graham

Generally, the feeling about this book was that we were not too sure at first, as we needed to get used to the 'accent' it is written in. The characters and story are based in Alvechurch and they use the grammar and vocabulary of the area, which you need to adjust to.

However, we all thought that there were likeable characters, and we could feel for all of them in their situations. The family reactions felt very realistic and the way it ended meant we didn't know what the outcome actually was. The story demonstrated how judgmental we can be, even though we know someone really well. It was interesting to see how 'Ba', one of the main characters, reacts initially, but then she becomes more educated, learns and acceptance follows. It shows how we all can react initially and then adapt as we learn more.

Several of the group thought that the narrative was very like the style of comedians such as Victoria Wood, Jasper Carrott, Alan Bennett and more recently, Joe Lycett. Some of the words and phrases are of the time the book was written which probably wouldn't be used today.

Overall, it was surprisingly good and very easy to engage with.



The next book we will be reading is '**I Let You Go**' by **Clare Mackintosh**, we'll be discussing it at 2pm on **Monday 22nd July**, in Church House.

If you'd like to join the Parish Book Club, we'd love you to come along, you don't have to commit to every month if you are busy. In fact, you can join via email and just contribute your views about the books that way if you can't make the meeting. Additionally, if anyone has read a book that you think we might like to read and review, please let us know via the Parish Office.

ST JAMES'S DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday 25th July is the feast day of St James the Great who is the Patron Saint of St James Church. There is a stained-glass window which shows St James, dressed as a pilgrim, to the right of the high altar.

In order to mark the day, there will be a Eucharistic service starting at **10.30am** which will include prayers for healing. Following the service, we will be showing a video (in church) of a group of pilgrims as they walk to the shrine of St James, which is in the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Northern Spain. Many thousands of pilgrims, from around the world, follow the Way of St James every year to reach the shrine and to worship in the cathedral. Some walk the route; some cycle or go on a coach pilgrimage and others travel by horse back.



The video lasts approximately thirty minutes and will be followed by tea/coffee and Tarta de Santiago, which is a speciality of the Galician region of Spain, dating back to Medieval times, and is closely associated with the pilgrim route.

Please do join us for this special day; everyone is welcome.

Many thanks to Man Wong who has kindly helped with the technology in the preparation of the video and to Jan and Glenys who will be using their culinary skills to make the Tarta de Santiago for us.

Rev. Theresa Jones



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*As rated by the Care Quality Commission in England and the Care Inspectorate in Scotland.

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Join us for our upcoming event

The Big Care UK Sports Day

Friday 26th July, 1.30pm - 4pm

Come along to celebrate The Big Care UK Sports Day, where we're welcoming the local community to join us for fun and games at our Olympics-themed open day.

Contact the home to RSVP.

classes and gardening support residents to stay fit and active.

Blossomfield Grange care home
1 Worcester Way, Off Dog Kennel Lane, Solihull B90 4JX
0121 756 5748
careuk.com/blossomfield-grange

PATHWAYS TO PRAYER

On Saturday 11th May I was invited to St James Church to attend the 'Pathways to Prayer' exhibition. This proved to be extremely uplifting and a blessed occasion for me, and I am sure, to many others who were privileged to attend.

I was amazed at the breadth and depth of the exhibition which involved led sessions on Meditation, Intercessory Prayer, Prayer Walking, Poetry and Prayer, Celtic Prayer, Ignatian Examen, and the place of Icons (holy paintings) in prayer. Having so nourished our souls on all these and many other wonderful aspects of prayer we were treated to refreshments!



I was then able to help myself to some of the free booklets and other items related to prayer and left praising God in my heart and giving thanks for His goodness to us.

Every blessing and thanks to all who worked so hard to achieve all this.

Freda Sumner

LABYRINTHS

I had many interesting comments from people who came to our recent Pathways to Prayer event, but the item on which I received the most feedback was the Labyrinth.

A labyrinth looks a bit like a maze, but it is very different. Whereas a maze is designed to get you lost with a lot of dead ends and paths to avoid, a labyrinth has just one path that leads to the centre – you cannot get lost if you stay on the path. But what is it for, and why and how is it used in prayer? A labyrinth consists of a winding path to reach the centre, and walking this winding path can help us unwind, help us to let go of things that trouble us and to rest in God.

There are many labyrinths around – many retreat houses have them. There are even some in public places – Kate and I recently found one in a park alongside the river in Hereford. But for many of us, actually walking a labyrinth is not practical. This is where the finger labyrinth comes in.

On the next page you will find a simple labyrinth. This is a finger labyrinth, one on which you can trace the path with your finger. Here are some helpful hints as to how this can help you in prayer.

You can use the labyrinth in many situations – these are just examples, and the list is by no means exhaustive! You might want to:

- Read and reflect on a passage of scripture
- Hold a memory or picture of someone you wish to pray for
- Reflect on an experience where you are seeking healing or forgiveness
- Reflect on something you wish to have guidance on
- Use the labyrinth as a way of giving thanks to God

First find somewhere quiet to sit, then place the finger labyrinth on a table or tray in front of you. You might like to play some quiet music or light a candle.

Once you are still, pray these or similar words

*Almighty God, I am always in your presence.
You walk with me on my path through life;
Your words guide my steps; your Spirit feeds my soul.
May I always listen to your voice;
May I love and serve you all my days
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Then begin to slowly trace the labyrinth path with a finger on your non-writing hand. As you trace the path, notice what is happening in your mind and heart. Bring what is on your heart to God. Let your prayer unfold and trust that God will speak to you as you trace the path.

If your mind wanders to thoughts that seem like distractions, name the distraction, lift it up to God and ask God to guide your mind and heart back to him. If the distraction returns, explore it with God.

When you reach the centre of the labyrinth, thank God for having walked with you along the way. Spend some time in prayer and reflection as you receive God's love and blessing.

When you are ready, trace your return along the same path. Return gratefully and prayerfully recognising and reflecting on any changes in your feelings, any words you have heard from God and any decisions made. As you leave the labyrinth, give thanks and praise to God.

Can I encourage you to give it a go – it may be just the prayer tool you need!

Reverend Paul Day



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SIMPLER RECYCLING

You will have read Kate Crocker's article in the June magazine, following on from the Greenpeace Plastic Count survey in which some of us participated individually as well as collectively as a church. The results for Church House in particular would have been graded in Ofsted speak as "Room For Improvement" if not "Special Measures"!

With so many functions taking place in Church House in particular, it is difficult to keep our recycling clean and "good to go". Unfortunately, this results in the good recycling efforts made by many going to waste, or, more precisely, to landfill, because when greasy paper or contaminated food wrappings are added, the whole recycling contents become unrecyclable .

With this in mind, we have decided to restrict what we will all collect in Church House for recycling. The labelled bins in Church House can be used for

- *CLEAN CARDBOARD
- *CLEAN PLASTIC BOTTLES
- *CLEAN CANS/TINS
- *GLASS BOTTLES

Everything else to general waste. All paper products are excluded for the reasons given above.

In St James Church, there will be a receptacle for old pew slips and this will be clearly marked.

We do hope this helps us all to become "Outstanding" recyclers, using an Ofsted analogy again! (Apologies to teachers.)

Chris Speakman - Member of the Eco SubCommittee

JULY & AUGUST ECO TIPS FROM A ROCHA UK

Taste the benefits of seasonal and local food. Plan to incorporate locally grown produce into your diet and shopping list throughout the seasons, as it is harvested at its peak ripeness, ensuring superior flavour compared to imported alternatives that have travelled thousands of miles. If saying grace before a meal is a regular practice in your household, this month, include giving thanks for your local food producers.

Assist local wildlife during hot weather. Provide hedgehogs with a juicy snack like mealworms or canned dog food as their prey of slugs, snails and worms diminishes, and ensure a safe exit for them and other small mammals if you have a garden pond. Help garden birds by maintaining a filled bird bath and supplying supplementary food, including black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins, currants, mealworms and a nutritious seed mixture, when natural supplies become scarce.

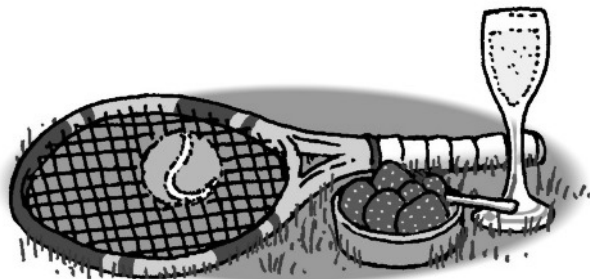
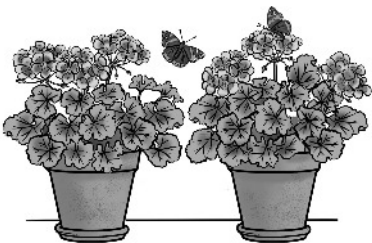
THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

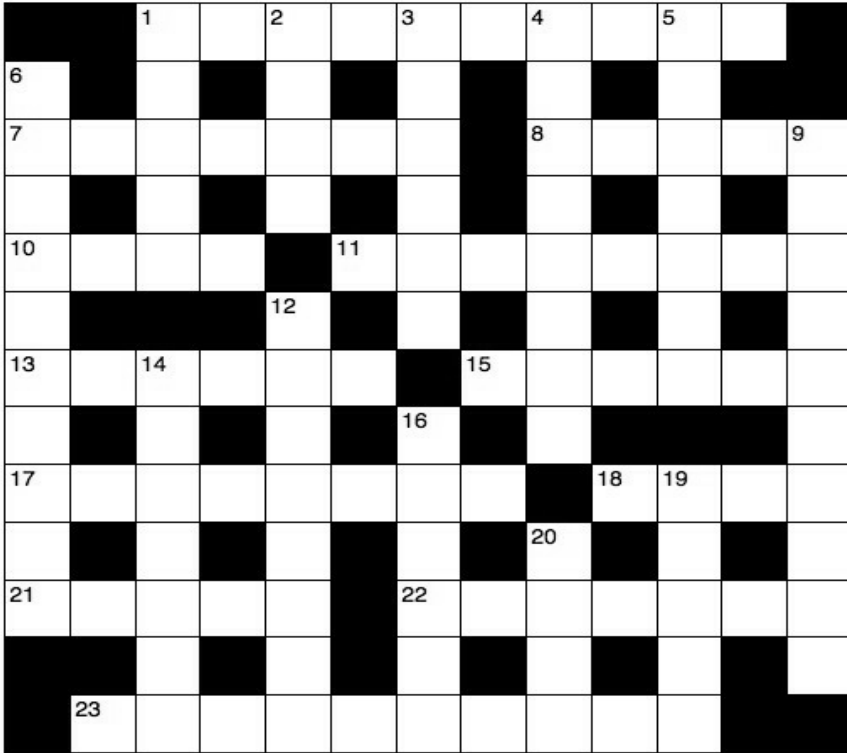
- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)



THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



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

Answers are on page 23

Open every Tuesday morning throughout the summer

WELCOME CAFE

10am until 11.30am



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forward to
seeing you



in Church House - and in the garden if it's fine!

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 Shirley, Solihull
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Email ~ sandraboyce61@hotmail.com

WORDSEARCH - SEA SUNDAY

14th July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries. You might wish to support one of these three well-known societies: The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), The Apostolate of the Sea (Roman Catholic), and The Sailors' Society (inter-denominational).



Answers are on page 23

M	S	E	A	D	E	Y	L	I	E	C	O	W	H
R	P	E	L	H	N	Y	C	N	H	N	L	O	T
A	O	L	A	C	I	T	C	A	R	P	H	R	N
T	H	R	B	S	H	I	P	W	R	E	C	K	A
V	S	S	O	R	Y	L	I	A	D	I	Y	I	H
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C	A	M	G	I	H	T	D	S	D	H	Y	G	R
P	F	F	N	I	U	I	R	N	T	E	S	E	E
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AFLOAT
 CHAPLAINS
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 ECONOMY
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4	5	3	8	7	9	6	2	1
7	9	1	2	6	3	4	5	8
5	3	9	7	2	1	8	4	6
8	4	2	3	9	6	7	1	5
1	7	6	4	5	8	2	3	9
2	6	4	9	1	7	5	8	3
3	1	7	5	8	4	9	6	2
9	8	5	6	3	2	1	7	4



PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Surgery and Home Visits

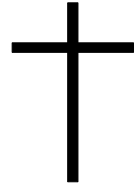
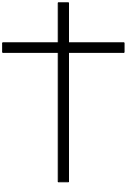
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- 5th Elsie Withey
- 18th Leo Sealey
Orla Sealey
- 26th Oliver Corney



Funerals

- 1st Evelyn Herbert
- 10th David Dingley-Cox



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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

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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*

READERS

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CHURCH WARDENS

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email: lindaalisonpitt@gmail.com

Gill Hanton Tel: 0121 733 2347
email: gill.hanton@btinternet.com

Deputy Wardens - St James the Great Church

Kate Crocker John Richards
Tel: 07562 664163 Tel: 07941 634971

Deputy Warden - Christ the King Church

Denise Smith
Tel: 07815 193892

Deputy Warden - St John the Divine Church

Linda Alford
Tel: 0121 430 4785

SAFEGUARDING

Sue Harries
Tel: 07977 012753 or 0121 745 8896 (c/o Parish Office)

***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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Principal - Mrs H Lynch

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

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