

Shirley Parish Magazine

January 2020



SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE

CLERGY

Vicar - Reverend Peter Law-Jones

The Vicarage, 2 Bishopton Close, Shirley B90 4AH
email: pljz1000@gmail.com

Tel: 0121 293 7610

Associate Vicar - Reverend Paul Day

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

Tel: 0121 537 9672

Reverend Theresa Jones

email: theresaj1@btinternet.com

Tel: 01564 822687

Reverend Nick Ball

12 Apsley Croft, Kings Norton, B38 0AF
email: nicholaseball@hotmail.com

Tel: 0121 243 1336

WORSHIP CENTRES, REGULAR EVENTS & SERVICES

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS and COMMUNION FOR THE SICK - please contact the Parish Office

ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX

Sunday: 8.00am Holy Eucharist or Morning Worship
10.00am Holy Eucharist or Morning Worship
12.30pm Baptisms (by appointment)
Tuesday: 9.45am Holy Eucharist (Healing Eucharist/The Guild of St Raphael - 1st Tuesday of the month)
Wednesday 4.00pm Contemplative Prayer - last Wednesday of the month
Thursday: 10.30am Holy Eucharist
Friday: 10.00am 'JimmyTots' in Church House for pre-school children and their carers
Saturday: 10.00am Messy Church - 3rd Saturday of the month in Church House

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, Widney Junior School, Clifton Crescent, Solihull B91 3LQ

Sunday: 10.30am Holy Eucharist or Morning Worship
4th Sunday (when there is no 5th Sunday) the venue alternates with St John's
6.00pm Holy Eucharist or Evening Worship at Phoenix House, B90 4PQ
Tuesday: 12noon Ploughman's Lunch in Church House (alternate weeks)
2.00pm 'Tuesday Cafe' in Church House (alternate weeks)
Wednesday 10.45am Holy Eucharist at Swallows Meadow (alternate weeks), B90 4PH
2.00pm Home Group at 122 Cranmore Boulevard, B90 4RU
Thursday 3.30pm Messy Church - 3rd Thursday of the month

ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW

Sunday: 9.00am Holy Eucharist or Morning Worship
4th Sunday - (when there is no 5th Sunday) venue alternates with Christ the King
7.00pm Reflective Worship - 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesday: 10.30am Coffee Morning - 2nd Wednesday of the month
Wednesday: 10.30am Share a Prayer & Bible Reading - 3rd Wednesday of the month

Parish Services are held when there are five Sundays in the month

(continued inside the back cover)

PARISH OFFICE

Open Monday to
Friday (except Bank
Holidays)
9.30am - 12.30pm

Address: Church House, Church Road, Shirley, B90 2AX
Telephone: 0121 745 8896
email: admin@shirleyparish.co.uk
Parish Website: <https://shirleyparishb90.wixsite.com/live>
Social Media: [twitter.com/@ParishB90](https://twitter.com/ParishB90)
facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90



January
2020

**In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father ...**

For the New Year -

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen



For our Parish -

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

*We meet for half an hour at 8.30am every Saturday morning to pray for the
Parish - all are welcome to join us -
please see the diary and pewslips for the venues*

THIS MONTH'S PRAYERS *continued*

For our Parish -

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

For the week of Christian Unity (18th to 25th January) -

O Lord, you have brought all your faithful people into a single, universal family,
stretching across heaven and earth.

Bind us together with a spiritual love which is stronger than any human love,
that in serving one another we may neither count the cost nor seek reward, but
think only of the common good.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Saviour.

Amen

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MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

Our very best wishes to you for a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.



Just like Janus who possesses the ability to see all things from the past we will reminisce on our meeting held on the 21st November with a talk by Kath Reynolds taking us on a nostalgic trip of our childhood Christmases 'Tis the Season to be Jolly'. It was enjoyed by all it and evoked very many memories of a gentler pace of life.

Our last meeting of 2019 was the Advent Service held on 4th December in St James Church. The service was prepared by Linda Pitt and consisted of Advent Hymns plus readings based on Waiting, Preparing, Rejoicing and Labouring. Thank you to Reverend Paul Day who led us in prayers and the Final Blessing. The service culminated with light refreshments. Thank you to Linda and to all who provided the refreshments.

Wave of Prayer – 16th January: please see the pew slip for more information.

As you will have seen from your new programme for 2020 that there will be no meetings in January and our next meeting will be the **A.G.M on Wednesday 5th February** – 2pm in Church House.

Mothers' Union members subscriptions are now due, payment would be appreciated please by the 22nd January and returned in the envelope attached to your Link magazine direct to the Treasurer, Susan Knight, or via the Parish Office or a Committee Member.

If anyone requires a lift to any of the meetings, please contact a member of the committee:-

Linda Pitt ~ 0121 744 677
Liz Yates ~ 0121 744 6416
Susan Knight ~ 0121 744 6298

We extend a warm welcome to visitors to any of our meetings.

Susan Knight

7,000 GLUE DOTS AND 5 BABIES – THE STORY OF A JOURNEY

I always say that Christmas starts early in our house but there have been moments during the last few weeks when I have been looking out of the window to check that I was not at the North Pole in Santa's workshop. Bernard has been sawing craft sticks, you know the ones like what you are left with at the end of your ice-lolly. They have both been sanding the cut ends and sticking glue dots onto them. There has been counting and quite a lot of mis-counting. But finally and carefully sorted into boxes there were enough sticks for 700 children to make models of the stable.

Then I got it. It was 'Journey to the Stable' time and that can only mean chaos at home.

Every day they went out early. Then came back mid-afternoon. I enjoyed the peace but would have enjoyed it more if they had left the heating on. 'Take me with you', I pleaded until finally Sarah relented.

Although I have seen it before I am always amazed at seeing the church gates covered in tinsel and twinkly lights. And there was Rudolf on the porch wall welcoming us. When the children arrived they sat down to watch the first part of our nativity play as Rachel goes to Bethlehem to register to pay her tax. On the way she meets wise men and some very smelly shepherds, but she is so worried about Mary and Joseph because Mary is about to have a baby.

We broke off then while the children did various activities and I strolled around to see what was happening. One group were sitting round a fire wrapped in blankets and cuddling sheep while they heard about the shepherds.

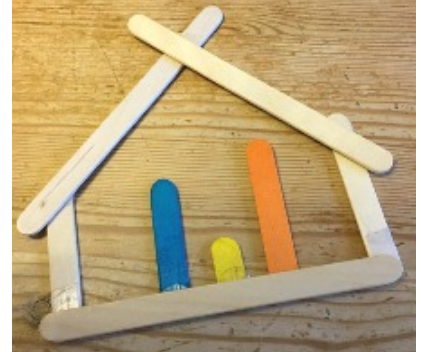


Another were in the wise man's house with his star charts and gifts for the baby. The choir vestry looked like a house and the children were seeing how things we do now started out at the first Christmas.

'JOURNEY TO THE STABLE' 2019 continued

Finally I went to see what was happening with all those craft sticks. The children were making little model crib scenes to hang on their trees at school or at home.

Then we went to the stable. The innkeeper brought in Mary and Joseph. They had baby Jesus with them, I think I recognised him from Messy Church. The shepherds visited. Rachel popped in and the wise men arrived with gifts. On the afternoon I was there the children sang a song to the baby that they had practised at school beforehand. It was very good.

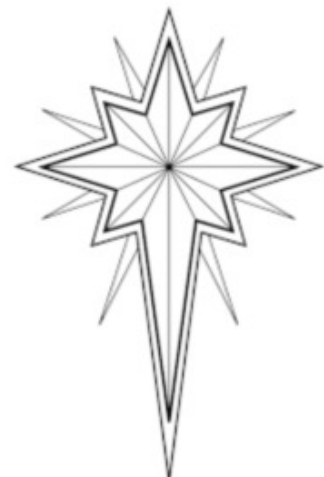


Afterwards we had to put everything in church back into its usual places but lots of people helped moving chairs and vacuuming and it was soon done.

I had a great time and I'm sure that the children who came during the week (all 650 of them) did as well. So a big thank you to all the people who helped on the 'Journey to the Stable', including five babies who played the part of Jesus – you were brilliant.



*Nicodemus Penfold -
Parish Raconteur*



OUR 2019 GIFT TREE

Many, many thanks to all of you who took labels away from the gift tree and converted them into gifts. Because of your generosity and us asking for some things to be left unwrapped this year it has been hard to count. But if you think about 280 gifts that's not far wrong.

As usual we asked for the practical - pants, the gifts - toy cars, the treats - bars of chocolate and in they came. It is fascinating to see which gifts are the most popular to buy. It's probably pyjamas. And those where the labels get left until the end. This year it was slippers.



The bulk of the gifts went to people who attended the ADAVU Christmas party, others to people at the Narthex party. Can I thank you all on behalf of them?

Sarah Penfold

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GETTING READY FOR OUR 2019 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



On Friday 6th December and Saturday 7th December, it took a team of between six and ten people approximately nine hours to construct and decorate a twenty foot knitted Christmas Tree. There were 7,000 leaves and 3,000 decorations on the tree.

The tree was the idea of a lady called Ann Dunkley who lived in Marston Green; sadly she died tragically and her friends at St Leonard's Church in Marston Green decided to carry on with the project as she would have wanted.



The tree has been displayed at St Leonard's initially and then at the Church of

St Peter and St Paul in Coleshill a couple of years ago and the idea is that it travels around the diocese, so we were able to display it this year. We wonder where it will be next year?

Many thanks to everyone who has helped to construct the tree, it was a challenging, but very rewarding exercise!

The festival was underway as this magazine went to print - a big 'thank you' to everyone who worked so hard, especially Linda Pitt - the Church looked amazing!

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

In 2018, Kevin Gill and the children from Eversfield School in Solihull came along to entertain us with beautiful Christmas music. Well, Kevin agreed to organise another lunchtime concert in 2019 and, after agreeing with the Mothers' Union to change the time of their Advent Service (for which we extend our many thanks), it was decided to go ahead on 4th December.

The concert was well attended and donations totalling £85 were collected at the end for a little known charity called 'Building 4 Hope'.



You can find out more about this charity at
<http://www.building4hope.org.uk/>

This charity seeks to bring hope by reaching and supporting vulnerable young adults, focusing on construction skills training, help in gaining employment and life skills development.

Their primary focus is on disadvantaged young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), aged between 16 – 25 years living in and around Birmingham and Solihull. B4H is focused on candidates who generally have few academic qualifications and low self esteem. They start with one to one coaching then work towards Level 1 CSkills NVQ in carpentry and joinery. Along the journey, students pass H&S training and receive their CSCS card and so become “construction site ready”.

The charity has identified that the two most important things many disadvantaged young adults who are NEET need are:

- * Positive relationships with role models who are committed to their long-term health and well being, who can advise, mentor and challenge; and
- * Qualifications and skills that allow them to find and secure employment.

The charity does not receive any government funding and they rely on generous donations from individuals who support their objectives.

We thank Kevin and Eversfield School for giving us the chance to raise awareness of this charity.

Margaret Foreshew

PCC REPORT

At the PCC meeting on 3rd December it was agreed to put the minutes, once approved, on the Parish website. Prior to the minutes being approved a report like this will included in the magazine and also on the website - <https://shirleyparishb90.wixsite.com/live/pcc>

At the PCC meeting on 3rd December these were the main things discussed:

1. Reverend Paul Bracher – the Diocesan Malawi Officer – gave a presentation about the Diocesan links with Malawi, and how a Parish like Shirley can get involved. The parish can forge a link with a Parish in Malawi and be able to learn about the church and general life there. He stressed that such a link would bring benefits to both parishes involved and would work best if there were a number of people in the Parish who could lead on it and encourage others. The PCC agreed to talk about this at the next meeting.
2. Safeguarding – it was reported that two people in the Parish have agreed to take on the role of safeguarding coordinator, and their names will be published, and details circulated, once they have had the necessary training.
3. Dates for the committee meetings for 2020 were agreed.
4. EcoChurch – Kate Crocker spoke of progress so far and asked for those interested in being part of a core group to contact her.
5. Reports from the three churches were received.
6. The Pastoral Committee suggested a temporary alteration of the service pattern across the Parish to make it easier to cover in Peter's absence. (details elsewhere in this magazine)
7. A baptism follow up service and tea for all those who had children baptised in 2019 is planned for 9th February 2020.
8. The Parish Share request for 2020 was noted and agreed.
9. It was also noted that the Parish Office (Whole Parish) account was overspending against income, so a greater contribution from each church is required
10. A stewardship campaign will be organised for Spring 2020.
11. Work on the sound deadening for Church House was agreed, the money coming from the Hobbis legacy.
12. The Parish Magazine will be printed in house and no charge will now be made for it.
13. The consultation on the merging of Shirley, Moseley and Kings Norton Deaneries was discussed. The PCC supported this.

Reverend Paul Day

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB - OUR TWO MOST RECENT READING EXPERIENCES

Human beings ‘deserve not only our consideration, but our reconsideration’.

This thought comes from Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, the central character in Amor Towles’ novel, *A Gentleman in Moscow*. In 1922 this elegant and thoughtful aristocrat narrowly escapes execution in post-revolutionary Russia – for writing a poem. As a result of his reputation as a hero of the pre-revolutionary cause, his Bolshevik accusers decide not to execute him but rather to place him under house arrest in Moscow’s luxury Metropol Hotel. If he leaves the hotel he will be shot. After moving from his grand suite of rooms, Rostov settles in tiny rooms in the attic. For the next thirty-two years, the hotel, with all its customs, routines and rituals becomes his world, and his growing friendships with the initially anonymous workers who inhabit the hotel turns out to be his road to salvation.

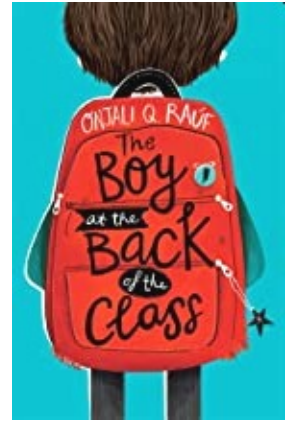
It would be fair to say that this novel delighted and involved everyone in the book club. The main character is unswervingly polite, precise and optimistic and his view of his society struggling to survive a period of terrible hardships and oppression, is consistently positive.

The time it takes to read this novel and be in the company of Count Rostov and his friends is a hugely uplifting and life-affirming experience for readers. The book is going to be a strong contender for our book club’s ‘book of the year’ vote late in 2020.

The quotation we began with, about human beings deserving our reconsideration as well as our consideration, applies just as much to the second novel we have enjoyed in November and December this year. It’s *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, by Onjali Q Rauf. We had been talking about books we might buy for some of the young people in our various families and this one so caught our interest that we decided to make it our latest read. The boy at the back of the class is a nine-year-old Syrian refugee called Ahmet and tells the story of how three of his new classmates support him with kindness, sensitivity and bravery. It’s a book about not stereotyping the people around you – on grounds of race, gender, or background – and about challenging prejudice and championing fairness. A hugely moving read. In many ways it echoes the themes of kindness and open-heartedness that we found so engaging in the Amor Towles’ novel.

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB continued

Although generally recommended for 10 to 12 year olds, all the book club's members loved Onjali Rauf's book – and it ignited lots of memories and emotions about our own family backgrounds – and of our days in the workplace (many of us were teachers). It is an important book for young people to read too.



And for our next read ...

Rather than all reading the same book, Sue Guy has suggested that individually we each select a biography, or autobiography or memoir and tell the rest of the group about our choice at the next meeting late in February 2020. (Check the weekly pew slips for details).

The Shirley Parish Book Club is one of the great pleasures of being a member of our congregation. We will keep everyone informed about our book choices and reactions. If you want to come along and join in, or just listen, you would be more than welcome. Similarly, should you read any the books we mention and would like to drop us a line letting us know what you think, we would be delighted.

Ray Speakman



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FOOD BANK, NARTHEX & ADAVU NEWS

FOOD BANK: just before Christmas many of the volunteers came together one morning in the warehouse at Tyseley. We all tend to work on a particular day at a particular Food Bank with very little contact between the various teams, so this was a rare and happy occasion to meet up for a short time. Some of us 'old hands' reminisced about the setting up of Sparkhill Food Bank (as it was known then) in the small factory in Bard Street so many years ago. Little did we imagine that we would still be going in 2020.

Now we have the much larger warehouse where the large stocks of food are stored, and the clients' bags made up, for the six satellite Food Banks run by the Trussell Trust in the SE area of Birmingham. The whole set up has increased dramatically in size - as have the number of clients coming in for their three days supply of food.

We have also expanded to be able to offer them bags of toiletries, nappies occasionally, books and toys for their children, and even food for their pets! None of this comes from our funding from the National Lottery which pays only for the rent of the warehouse, two members of staff and a van to collect donations from schools, supermarkets etc. But we are always short of volunteers - whether it be to help clients face to face, fill up the bags for distribution or to collect food from a particular supermarket on a regular basis. So if you could spare a hour or two occasionally we would love you to join our team.

Currently we need small bags of sugar, dried milk, instant mash and toilet rolls!

NARTHEX and CLOTHING BANK: as you will see in a separate article our time at the Narthex and the Clothing Bank has come to an end. It feels a great privilege to have been able to help families living a few miles away when they have been at their lowest ebb. We are hopeful that others will step forward to help.

ADAVU: as I write this in early December, our house is full of the wonderful donations which you have given for their party on the 19th December. Liisa is expecting 24 adults and 21 children - they will all receive presents, some toiletries and new underwear. We shall take cars, dolls and games to entertain the children. There will be a hot meal for all plus lots of cakes as dessert and some spares to be taken home afterwards. We shall have several Ikea bags full of children's clean clothing which the mothers love to rummage through.

FOOD BANK, NARTHEX & ADAVU NEWS continued

The atmosphere is surprisingly happy given the traumatic experiences of these families – they know that they are now safe and will be supported as they adjust to their new lives. To you goes an enormous mountain of thanks - for the items from the Gift Tree so generously donated, the cakes bought and baked for their party and the huge interest and support which you have given to David and me throughout the year.

We hope that 2020 will be a peaceful and healthy year for you and yours.

Elizabeth Paice

OUR RETIREMENT!

David and Elizabeth Paice are sad to announce that we are no longer collecting items for the Narthex. After many, many years the whole thing has got completely beyond our storage and energy capabilities. You have been wonderful - digging deep into your cupboards, lofts and garages for the hugely varied items we have requested. You have helped so many desperate families and individuals, changing their lives for the better. They aren't able to share their tears and gratitude with you, but we assure you that they are heartfelt.

We shall continue to support the Food Bank, collecting your donations weekly from the Parish Office, delivering them to the warehouse in Tyseley and helping to make up the parcels of food and toiletries for the clients. The most urgent shortages will be noted in the pewslips as usual.

Thank you for all the help you have given - an end to an era!

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE FABRIC BAGS!

Elizabeth Paice kindly emailed twice recently, once to say that your fabric bags were indispensable, that without them they would have run out of bags to pack the food parcels for families attending the Food Bank. The next week, she emailed to say that even with our fabric bags, there were insufficient plastic or fabric bags to make up the food parcels. Another church has expressed interest in making the bags so our project is growing!

Please do all you can to help the fabric bag project maintain momentum. Kits will continue to be available at the back of St James Church. Thank you all for your support and the amazing bags you are making.

Chris Speakman



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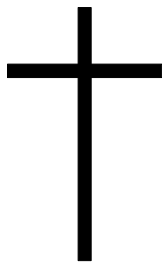


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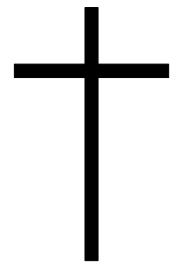
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ROUGH BOOKS

I was talking the other day to someone about the rough books that we used to have at school. A rough book was a book in which we could make notes, take down homework details and draft out pieces of work. It was made of low-quality paper and writing in ink would end up all spidery as the ink would be absorbed into the paper - an encouragement for us to use pencil. But rough books tended to get messy.



But at the start of each school year (and when one was filled during the school year) we were given a pristine rough book. I remember making a promise to myself that this one would remain neat and tidy. There would be no stupid pictures, no silly poems and no scribbling. And the first page usually was fairly tidy. But things soon got back to normal.

I suppose that a neat and tidy rough book wouldn't be a rough book at all. It wouldn't be doing the job it was supposed to do.

Here we are at the start of a new year. We probably look back on 2019 with mixed emotions. Perhaps we're glad it has finished; or maybe for us it was a good year. But what of the year ahead? What will 2020 bring?

In many ways it is like a brand-new book – each page ready for us to write in. We might hope that every page will be neat and tidy. We might hope that there will be no mistakes, no silly drawings and no scribbling and that everything will be exactly as it should be. But deep down we know that won't be the case. Whatever else the new year holds, we can be sure that we will get some things wrong, some things will turn out messy and some will not be as we might have hoped. That is life and we shouldn't be surprised.

Some people think that, if we believe in God and trust in him, everything will be perfect. But he never promises that. What he does promise is that despite all the mess that we might make, despite the things we get wrong and the things that don't go according to plan, he will be with us. Alongside us and before us and within us. That's a promise we can all take with us into the unknown of 2020. I hope it turns out to be a rewarding year for you and yours, but most of all that you are aware of God with you every day.

Reverend Paul Day

OUR PARISH DIARY FOR JANUARY 2020

- 1st THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS
4th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 18 Widney Lane
- 5th EPIPHANY SUNDAY**
7pm: Reflective Worship at St John's Church
- 6th 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion
7.30pm: Mission, Ministry & Pastoral Committee Meeting
- 7th 9.45am: Healing Eucharist at St James Church
11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion
12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
- 8th 10.30am: Coffee morning at St John's Church
10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
- 11th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 34 Arnold Road
- 12th THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**
- 13th 11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion
14th 7.30pm: St James Management Committee Meeting
15th 7.30pm: CTK Management Committee Meeting
16th Mothers Union Wave of Prayer
3.30pm: Messy Church at Widney School
7.30pm: St John's Management Committee Meeting
- 18th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church
10am: Messy Church at Church House
- 19th THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**
- 21st 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House
22nd 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion
25th THE CONVERSION OF PAUL
8.30am: Parish Prayers at 34 Arnold Road
- 26th THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**
10.30am: CTK & St John's Joint Service at Widney School
- 28th 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House
29th 4.00pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church

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

FEBRUARY 2020 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Sunday 12th January

PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 25th January

1st JANUARY - THE NAMING OF JESUS

It is Matthew and Luke who tell the story of how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1st January - eight days after 25th December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). For in Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the *name* of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Philippians 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. Or there is the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became 'Ἰησοῦς' (*Iēsoûs*), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

COACH PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

16th - 21st MAY 2020

There are still a few places available for the coach trip along the 'Camino Portuguese Spiritual Variant' route. The cost is £798.00 plus a small charge of £64.00 for single supplements. Included are flights, hotel accommodation, breakfast, evening meal and guided tours.

If you would like to join us please contact Revd. Dr. Theresa Jones - Email: theresaj1@btinternet.com or telephone: 01564 822687.



TEMPORARY SERVICE PATTERN ACROSS THE PARISH

At the PCC meeting on 3rd December we talked about Peter's absence through ill health and how we might continue to cover the services both while he is off, and during any phased return to work. The current pattern is impossible to cover with just one priest in the Parish, and, although Theresa, Nick and Richard help when they can, we cannot assume they will be available every week.

The following pattern was agreed to come into effect in January. Importantly it retains a service at each church each week at the normal times. The only difference is the frequency of Eucharistic services, though there will always be a Eucharist each Sunday in two of our churches. Evening services at Phoenix House and at St John's Church are unchanged.

	St James Church 8am	St John's Church 9am	St James Church 10am	Christ the King Church 10.30am
1st Sunday	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Worship
2nd Sunday	Eucharist	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Eucharist
3rd Sunday	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Worship
4th Sunday (when there is no 5th Sunday)	Eucharist	Eucharist (joint with CTK – venue alternates)	Morning Worship	Eucharist (joint with St John's – venue alternates)
4th Sunday (when there is a 5th Sunday)	Eucharist	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Eucharist
5th Sunday	Parish Eucharist (St James Church)			

This will be the 'base line' for services, although if another priest is available we will endeavour to change Morning Worships to Eucharist to try to retain the current pattern.

The only other temporary change is that there will be no Guild service on Wednesday evenings. Instead the Tuesday morning Eucharist on the first Tuesday of each month will be a healing Eucharist.

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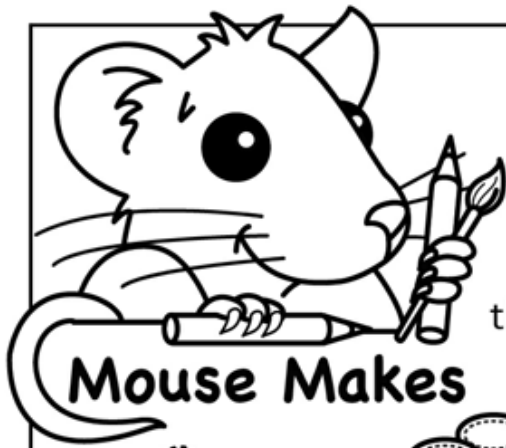
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Mouse Makes

EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down and worshiped him and left *three* special gifts:



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

Can you find these words below in the word search?



How did God warn the wise men?



READ
Matthew 2:1-12

- JESUS • BORN • BETHLEHEM • JUDEA • WISE • EAST • JERUSALEM • KING
STAR • WORSHIP • HEROD • PRIESTS • CHRIST • PROPHECY • SHEPHERD
ISRAEL • GO • FIND • LOOK • SAW • JOYFUL • MARY • BOWED • GIFTS
GOLD • FRANKINCENSE • MYRRH • WARNING • DREAM

THE MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

The Magazine Committee will be meeting for the final time this month and will be transferring it's future care and direction to the Mission, Ministry and Pastoral Committee (our clergy, readers and Parish Wardens).

A massive 'thank you' to the Committee for many years of loyal service -

Richard Hidson - Treasurer

Susan Knight - Advertising

Carol & Barry Robinson - Collection and distribution.

As announced last month, the magazine is now available free of charge to everyone who would like one (although you can make a donation towards the Parish's mission work if you would like to). It can also be sent by email or viewed on the Parish Website - <https://shirleyparishb90.wixsite.com/live/shirley-parish-magazine>.

Please refer any queries about the magazine to the Editor (details on page 32) or to the Parish Office (details inside the front cover).

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WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Our prayer for Christian unity is deeply rooted in the Bible. We pray for unity because Jesus prayed that His disciples would be one, that the world might believe (John 17:20-21). St Paul also urged the churches to which he wrote to recognise their unity in Christ, even though there was much diversity within them (1 Corinthians 12:27).

For the churches in Malta, the Bible has special relevance for the shared life of the churches there, for the Gospel first came to Malta in the events that are told in the Acts of the Apostles, where St Paul and those with him encountered unusual kindness from the inhabitants. Many people in Britain and Ireland will have visited Malta on holiday and seen the place where these events are believed to have taken place. This is a reminder that Christianity is not merely a spirituality, but a faith rooted in events in human history: the redemption of humanity and the whole of creation. The unity for which we pray therefore serves to make Christ known in the world.

The story of St Paul's being shipwrecked on Malta in Acts 27 and 28 leads us, during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, to reflect upon many aspects of our own lives and the lives of our churches. As we approach one another, seeking unity, we recognize that we sometimes carry baggage from history, tradition and cultural expectation, which can weigh us down and threaten to overwhelm us. There is the danger that, in the face of that experience, we might lose sight of the hope which first called us and so give up reaching for the light which Christ offers us.

St Paul challenged his fellow travellers, sailors, soldiers and prisoners to keep up their courage. In the face of apparent desperation and hopelessness, we are challenged to put our trust in God and allow ourselves to be held and carried through the waters. There will be times when we are broken, as individuals and as churches, and looking back we shall see not just the one set of footprints in the sand, but hundreds, as we are surrounded and supported by those who love us. There will be times when, standing in the storms of our own making, we are challenged to demonstrate unusual kindness in the face of worldly indifference.

To demonstrate unusual kindness is to see the sister and brother in the monster's shame and know that they too are children of God. To demonstrate unusual kindness is to give without counting the cost, and to allow ourselves to be given unto without questioning worth.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY *continued*

As we reflect upon, and pray for, Christian unity, we acknowledge the injury that we have caused, the pain that we carry, the baggage that we must jettison. We pray for Christian unity as the place from which we can move onward in faith and in hope for the redemption of the world and the restoration of creation.

For this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we accompany the churches of Malta, praying with and alongside them, praying also for them in their Christian journey as they seek the unity for which Christ prayed. And we rejoice with them that Malta traces its Christian origins back to the time of the Apostles. And in so doing, we enter into the drama of St Paul, those that travelled with him, and the inhabitants whom they met, to discover our shared unity, and in so doing recognise the importance of unusual acts of kindness that bear witness to the Gospel of peace and reconciliation.

You can find out more at <https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow'
(John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation'
(Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



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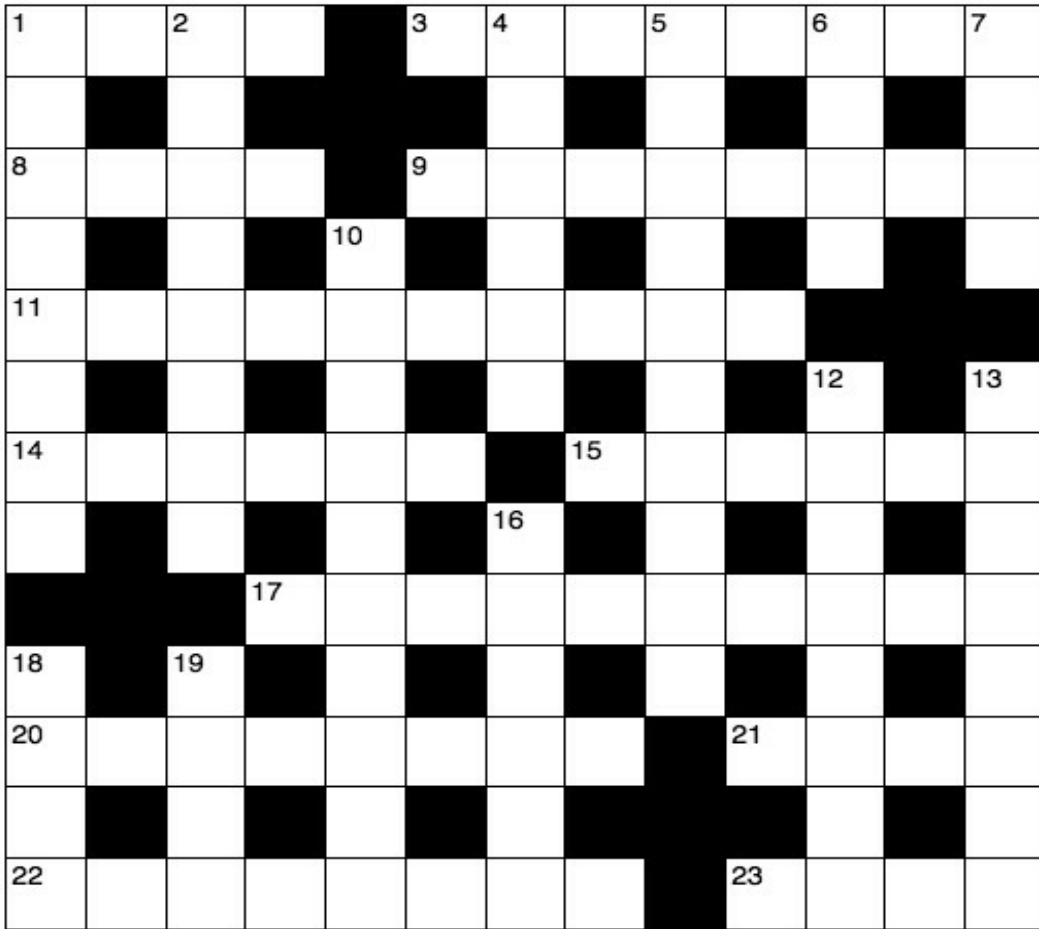
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THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



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Answers are on page 31



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Answers are on page 31



ARABIA	JEWS
BABY	KILL
BALTHASAR	KING
BETHLEHEM	KINGSHIP
EAST	MAGI
EPIPHANY	MELCHIOR
FELIX	MEN
FRANKINCENSE	MYRRH
GASPAR	NATIONS
GOLD	STAR
HEROD	WISE
ISAIAH	WORSHIP
JESUS	

WORDSEARCH - EPIPHANY

'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'

So Matthew tells of the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, to Bethlehem.

Did they come from Arabia Felix – nowadays southern Arabia?

How many came? No one knows, but by the 6th Century they were named Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

Why gold, frankincense and myrrh? Gold stands for kingship: Jesus was King of the Jews. Frankincense stands for divinity; Jesus was to be worshipped. Myrrh stands for death and burial; Jesus would become a sacrifice and die for his people.

The Wise Men were the very first Gentiles ever to worship Jesus. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi wanted to worship Jesus; Herod wanted to kill him.



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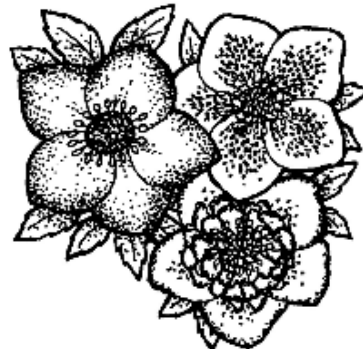
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PUZZLE ANSWERS



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THE LORD'S PRAYER AND YOU IN 2020

I cannot pray 'our' if I am not in communion with fellow Christians.

I cannot pray 'Father' if I do not treat Him as such, on a daily basis.

I cannot pray "Who are in Heaven" if all my interests are on earthly things.

I cannot pray 'hallowed by thy name' if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy myself.

I cannot pray 'Thy Kingdom come' if I don't live as if I am within His kingdom now.

I cannot pray 'Thy Will be Done' if I am disobedient to His commands.

I cannot pray 'on earth as it is in Heaven' unless I am truly ready to give my life to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray 'give us this day our daily bread' if I am not also willing to work for it, and to share with my neighbour in need.

I cannot pray 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us' if I harbour a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray 'lead us not into temptation' if I deliberately remain somewhere where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray 'Thine is the Kingdom' if I live as if the world is my kingdom.

I cannot pray 'Thine is the power and the glory' if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory.

I cannot pray 'forever and ever' if all my attention is on daily affairs.

I cannot pray 'Amen', unless I honestly say, 'Cost what it may, this is my prayer.'



PARISH FUNERALS

December	3rd	Rosalene Doris Brain	88
	3rd	Betty Ansell	93
	12th	Rosemary Stevens	85
	12th	Elsie Turton	93
	17th	Peter Pritchett	79



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SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE *continued*

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