

Shirley Parish Magazine

March 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

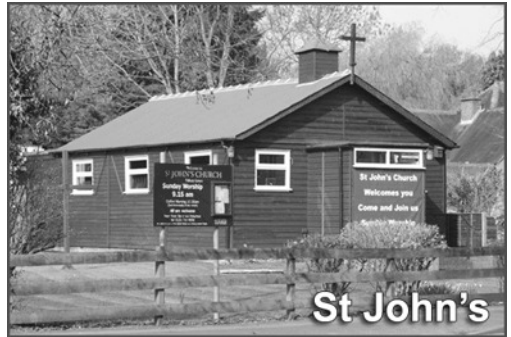
Address: Church House, Church Road, Shirley, B90 2AX
Telephone: 0121 745 8896
email: admin@shirleyparish.co.uk
Parish Website: <https://shirleyparishb90.wixsite.com/live>
Social Media: [twitter.com/@ParishB90](https://twitter.com/ParishB90)
facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

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

PRAYERS 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



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



*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*

A LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear sisters and brothers

You will have heard by now that I am to retire from full time ministry and as Vicar of Shirley on Easter Sunday, 12th April.

After my latest period of illness, I feel much better but still not well enough to play a full role in the life of the parish, so the time has come to bow out. I say this with some sadness, but also with tremendous gratitude for the privilege of sharing the adventure of faith with you. To be involved in the worshipping and wider community of Shirley has been a great blessing for me and for Kate, a blessing for which we will always give thanks.

What matters now is that the developments that have taken place continue and I am confident that this will be the case.

In writing this I recall some words written by Dag Hammarskjold, words that have been with me a great deal over the past months:

For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes.

Amen to that.

Yours in Christ



Reverend Peter Law-Jones



WORLD WATER DAY - MARCH 22nd



This is all about water and climate change – and how the two are linked. There is a website offering good ideas and resources if you would like to join in.

Please go to:

<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

ECO CHURCH & GOD'S TWO ACRES IN SHIRLEY

We have qualified for a bronze award from Eco church, on the basis of our current activities and have set up a Focus Group to see how we can build on this and eventually go for gold! As far as I can see, we are the first Eco Church in Shirley. Unfortunately, the system does not seem to recognise a Parish with three congregations, so we are listed by the Google location of St James's.

We will be keeping everyone informed of ideas and proposed actions and our Lent courses will focus on creation and our place in it.

The weather has been mild (so far) and the churchyard is full of snowdrops, crocuses and primroses with daffodils and bluebells not far behind.



St James's Management Committee has agreed that we can manage part of the area between the north side of the church and the grass path for wildlife. This means allowing grass and wildflowers to grow unchecked until August, when the area will be strimmed and raked. A further cut and rake will be needed in October. We will enclose the area with a rope boundary, avoiding the few graves which are still visited and making a neat, mown border in front of the boundary posts. We will also display notices to explain the experiment.

I am hoping to develop an area to encourage wildlife with a bird feeder, insect hotel, insect woodpile and jute bags of leaf to compost. This will probably be in a rectangular strip adjacent to the wall opposite Church House, although there is not much space. I will keep everyone posted.



The formal church garden is developing well, and I have planted three new rose bushes - a wedding gift from the Choir, including Rosa 'Friends Forever', which is what happens when you join a choir! Peter Sellars has recently planted daffodils and I am removing the emerging bluebells to the churchyard where they can spread unchecked.

This is fun and very creative! All ideas and help are welcome. Watch this space.

Kate Crocker

Come along to St John's Coffee Morning on Wednesday 11th March where Harry Tipping from Tanworth in Arden Church will be sharing what they have done in their churchyard.

MONUMENTAL HEADACHE!

Linda Pitt and I have just completed a safety check of gravestones in St James's churchyard and a number are in need of repair.

Graves remain the property of the family who set them up but in a 200 year old churchyard, many are no longer visited. The old, Victorian, single buried headstone seems to survive quite well but memorials held together with cement, pegs or metal rods can gradually become loose as the ground settles. If a memorial poses a danger, the deputy wardens are required to make it safe then try to contact family to advise repair.

Memorials in need of repair have now been marked either with hazard tape or a small note, left by the graves which seem still to be tended. A full list of all the memorials in need of repair (or just observation) is available in the Parish Office. After due notice, so that families can engage with this, we will need to apply for a Faculty to carry out any works.

Away from the paths, the ground in the churchyard is very uneven because graves always subside with time. We try to fill the worst dips, but great care is needed when walking in the area.

Kate Crocker



Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James

Nurture, Learn, Achieve

Executive Principal for Primary - Miss S Deakin

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

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

Glazing and Locks

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

Contact Jason on 07789761412



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Birmingham

Our first meeting for this year was the A.G.M held on Wednesday 5th February; it was chaired by the Reverend Paul Day. At this meeting the committee reported back on the activities of 2019. The accounts for 2019 had been inspected by Paul Smith and these were presented to the meeting for approval and adoption. All members on the committee were happy to stand again and were voted en bloc:

Linda Pitt - Joint Leader

Liz Yates - Joint Leader

Susan Knight - Joint Leader and Treasurer

Mary Appleby - Secretary

Jane Cook

Brenda Goudie

Margaret Kew

Val Sperrey

Kathy Fulford

Jill Hall

Carol Robinson

Jenny Tyler

Paul thanked the Mothers' Union for their support in parish life. The meeting closed with the Grace and this was followed by refreshments.

Forthcoming meeting – We look forward to welcoming Kate Crocker on **Thursday 19th March** 7.30pm in Church House for a talk on 'Eco Church'. Bishop David has signed up the Birmingham Diocese to become an Eco Diocese. Eco Diocese status is an accreditation awarded by A Rocha UK, a Christian charity that works for the protection and restoration of the natural world.

If you would like a lift to our meetings, hospital appointments etc. please contact a member of the committee:

Linda Pitt 0121 744 6777

Liz Yates 0121 744 6416

Susan Knight 0121 744 6298

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

With our best wishes

Susan Knight

ADAVU, FOOD BANK & CLOTHING BANK NEWS

ADAVU: Liisa and her colleagues at ADAVU (the charity supporting folks rescued in the West Midlands from trafficking and modern day slavery) which this parish helps mainly through the Christmas Gift Tree and some emergency supplies, received a wonderful letter from a client recently which concluded with “my gratitude for all the support you gave me, walking me through a difficult time. I must say you inspire me, and I thank God for you and the passion He has given you to help others”. This helped to assuage the trauma to the team caused when several men with knives tried to persuade their victims to return to them – big money is involved in trafficking and slavery and the successful escape of each victim might encourage others to make a dash for freedom!

NARTHEX: the Resource Centre has yet to appoint a new Coordinator – to all intents and purposes it remains closed.

CLOTHING BANK: currently the only shortages are warm sweaters and jackets for men, and men’s shoes sizes 8 and 9. Jacki C who is the specific Nurse at Heartlands and Solihull Hospital dealing with the homeless has asked me if I could find her some clothing suitable for men patients – **pyjamas, dressing gowns, slippers** etc. – has anyone anything suitable tucked away in a drawer somewhere?

FOOD BANK: it took eight weeks to clear the huge backlog of food which came in at Christmas. We were very grateful to teams from local and national organisations and schools, including some super children from Hazel Oak School in Shirley, who tackled the huge job of sorting and dating the donations. Oh, that organisations would spread their generosity throughout the year instead of swamping us in the week before Christmas! Inevitably some of the food had suffered from being under (literally) tons of tins for that length of time. Sadly, we had to dump squashed cakes, fresh flowers (!), fresh fruit etc.

The appeal this month is yet again for **small bags of sugar, crispbreads, dried milk and cooking oil**. The situation for the Toiletry Bags is dire - although I have plenty of soaps and toothbrushes, I have no **shaving foam or razors** for the men’s bags - 60% of the clients at “our” Food Bank are single men , usually in hostels, sleeping rough or sofa surfing which means that our emphasis needs to be on toiletries for men.

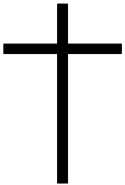
With the Easter holidays coming up it would be good to be able to repeat the very successful **colouring books and washable felt tip pens/coloured pencils** which we bagged up for the Little Ones in the Christmas holidays.

ADAVU, FOOD BANK & CLOTHING BANK NEWS *continued*

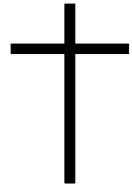
Smaller packs of felt tips are better than the larger ones (shades of small bags of sugar versus the larger ones!) because children like the brighter colours and the large packs have an unpopular majority of dark greys, greens and blacks. When a family is living in one room/hostel accommodation with no money and no garden it's a superb way of occupying Little Ones for short periods.

Many thanks for all you do,

Elizabeth Paice



Monumental Masons



BANNOCKS OF SOLIHULL

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

All aspects of Monumental Masonry

PERSONAL ATTENTION ~ ADVISORY SERVICE
LARGE DISPLAY

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

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

Bill Boyce - Decorators

ALL TYPES OF PAINTING, DECORATING AND GLAZING
Free Estimates

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

BUYING EASTER EGGS THIS YEAR?

Will you be buying Easter eggs for your children or grandchildren? Have you thought about buying one with a difference? The Real Easter Egg is the only Easter egg that

- Comes with an Easter story activity book telling the story of Easter
- Is made of Fairtrade chocolate
- Has no plastic packaging
- Contains no palm oil
- Supports charitable projects



You may have problems finding these in your local supermarket, but we will be making a bulk order from the Parish. If you want to be included they cost £4 each. Please leave your money and your name at the Parish Office. We need to order by **Monday 9th March** to ensure delivery in time.



COZY TOES

Bev Hughes DipCFhp

Mobile Foot Health Practitioner

07764636468 or

0121 451 3586



OFFERING A FRIENDLY,
RELIABLE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE AT AFFORDABLE PRICE

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

TREATMENT INCLUDES:-

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

Counselling and Psychotherapy Services

07846 928516

serenitypsychotherapy@outlook.com

www.serenitypsychbirm.co.uk



Registered Member 378016
MBACP

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

Fully qualified **LADIES AND GENTLEMENS** Hairdresser

Available for appointments in the comfort
of your own home

Please Telephone **CLAIRE** on
01564 794684 or **07931 751 451**

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

During a sermon I heard in recent months, I was shocked to learn of the number of Christians, as well as those of other faiths, who are still persecuted for their faith. I thought of this sermon again as I read the following passage from a novel I was reading, which I know the St James's book club have also read - "A Gentleman In Moscow" by Amor Towles:

[Andrey knew that his wife] "would be waiting in line at the new milk store that had opened in a decommissioned church on the other side of the neighbourhood. She said the milk there was fresher and the line was shorter, but Andrey knew this wasn't true. Like so many, she went there because the small chapel at the back of the church had a mosaic of 'Christ and the Woman at the Well' that no-one had bothered to dismantle; and the women who waited in line for their milk were willing to hold your place while you slipped away to pray".

How lucky we are not to suffer this kind of oppression. If you would like to know more about the persecuted church so that we can support in prayer, please see the following website:

<https://acnuk.org/>



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Chris Speakman

THE FILLING STATION



Using monthly mid-week evening 'celebration' meetings held in non-church venues Christian communities have grown in depth and numbers where a Filling Station has been opened. The Filling Station offers high quality speakers and teachers, contemporary sung worship and powerful, accessible prayer ministry.

The meetings are designed to be overtly spiritual but presented in a manner that those outside the church would feel comfortable. Meetings are held monthly and aim to be short, sharp and focused in character. They have found that many people meet God through these meetings and faith is built up.

Our local Filling Station meets at Knowle Village Hall on the first Monday of the month, 7pm for 7.30pm. The next meeting is on **Monday 2nd March** when the speaker will be Reverend Geoff Lanham, the new vicar of Knowle. You can find out more on <https://thefillingstation.org.uk/> or speak to Margaret Foresheew.



Elizabeth House

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

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

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

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

CHOOSE LIFE : REST

Psalm 74:16-17 New International Version (NIV)

The day is yours, and yours also the night;
 you established the sun and moon.
 It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth;
 you made both summer and winter.

Why don't we stop? Perhaps because we have convinced ourselves that stopping is a luxury we cannot afford. Also, much of our identity can be so tied in with our activity that we do not know who we are when we stop. God has designed us to need sleep and healthy rhythms of rest and work. Without them we become ineffective. To rest requires us to trust God and let go of self-reliance.

(Day 27 - LICC - 'Growing in Resilience' series - <https://www.licc.org.uk/>)



Fellowship Singers of Shirley






Join our friendly choir

Where	Who	When
Church House opposite St. James the Great, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX	Ability to read music not essential, rather a willingness to learn pieces of music and an enjoyment of singing with others.	Weekly on Sunday evenings from 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Email us on:

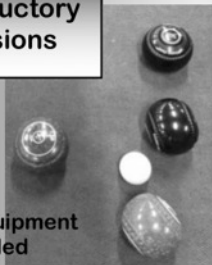


hello.fellowshipsingersshirley@outlook.com
<http://fellowshipsingersshirley.org.uk/>

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

**4 free
introductory
sessions**

with all equipment
provided



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

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



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

bowling@solihullindoorbowlsclub.co.uk

Solihull Indoor Bowls Club

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

Thomas Bragg & Sons Funeral Directors

**We create every
funeral individually,
just for you.**

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

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

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

www.thomasbragg.co.uk

Shirley

0121 744 1428

562 Stratford Road, B90 4AY

Knowle

01564 773 610

1682 High Street, B93 0LY

 **Funeral Partners**



WHAT PSALM 23 IS REALLY ALL ABOUT

The Lord is my Shepherd - THAT'S RELATIONSHIP!

I shall not want - THAT'S SUPPLY!

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures - THAT'S REST!

He leadeth me beside still waters - THAT'S REFRESHMENT!

He restoreth my soul - THAT'S HEALING!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness - THAT'S GUIDANCE!

For his name sake - THAT'S PURPOSE!

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - THAT'S TESTING!

I will fear no evil - THAT'S PROTECTION!

For thou art with me - THAT'S FAITHFULNESS!

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me - THAT'S DISCIPLINE!

Thou preparast a table before me in the presence of mine enemies - THAT'S HOPE!

Thou anointest my head with oil - THAT'S CONSECRATION!

My cup runneth over - THAT'S ABUNDANCE!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life - THAT'S BLESSING!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord - THAT'S SECURITY!

Forever - THAT'S ETERNITY!

REFLECTED FAITH : THE ALTAR

The long list of television programmes concerned with renovating, moving home, and celebrity homes shows how interested we are in other people's homes, and how they live. The style and furnishings of the buildings vary considerably, and you can find out a great deal about the person by looking at what they have on display or indeed the lack of items.

In my house the only books on show are related to walking and gardening, and the wall pictures are either old and family heirlooms or show the natural world. Yet in every house there are some things that are pretty much a given: they're always there in one form or another.

It's the same in churches. No matter how old the building is, or how many times it has been re-ordered, there are some items which are constant.

One of these essential items is the 'Altar' or 'Table'. In the majority of churches this is the place of most 'holiness' and where 'reverence' is given. The place where 'Bread is broken, and wine outpoured' in remembrance of Christ's last meal with His disciples.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION SHIRLEY PARISH LENT GROUPS 2020

The groups will be based on the Church of England's #LiveLent campaign for 2020 called **Care for God's Creation**. This gives a daily reading, reflection and a suggestion for practical action for each day in Lent and is focused on our care for the environment. This fits in very well with the Parish initiative to become an Eco Church.

#LiveLent takes us through the six days of creation looking at one aspect each week. The sixth day will be covered in our reflective worship on 8th April in Holy Week.

Day 1 / week 1 – Light

Day 2 / week 2– Water

Day 3 / week 3 – Land and plants

Day 4 / week 4 – Stars and seasons

Day 5 / week 5 – Creatures of sea and sky

Day 6 / week 6 – Animals and humans

You don't have to use the daily reflections – though these are highly recommended and will help you get the most out of the groups.

The Lent groups will meet on:

Wednesday afternoons

2.30pm - 4pm at Church House from 4th March to 1st April (5 weeks)

Thursday evenings

7.30pm - 9pm at 18 Widney Lane from 5th March to 2nd April (5 weeks)

On Wednesday evening in Holy Week (8th April) the Reflective Worship at St John's Church at 7.30pm will effectively bring the course to a close.

The Care for God's Creation booklets are available from all three churches and we ask for a donation of £1.50 to cover the cost of the booklet.



Alternatively, you can download the #LiveLent app or register to receive a daily email with the reflections and challenges by following this link <https://www.churchofengland.org/livelent>

LENT 2020 IN OUR PARISH *continued*

Or you could come to the START course



We are running the START course again on **Tuesday evenings** in Lent from 7.30pm – 9.15pm at St John's Church. This runs for six weeks from 3rd March to 7th April.

This is ideal for anyone who wants to know more about what the Christian faith is all about, and also a good opportunity if you would just like a refresh of the basics. Its format is discussion based following a couple of easy to follow video clips.

Those who attended the previous course found it really enjoyable, and have said how much it has helped them in their Christian faith.

No need to register – just turn up on 3rd March!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

Praying with Zimbabwe



FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

Shirley Methodist Church
Stratford Road, Shirley
B90 3AL

at 10.30am

All will be welcome



OUR PARISH DIARY FOR MARCH 2020

1st THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

ST DAVID

7pm: Reflective Worship at St John's Church

2nd 10.30am: Portershill Drive Holy Communion

3rd 9.45am: Healing Eucharist at St James Church

11am: Pegasus Court Holy Communion

12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House

2pm: Easter Journey Rehearsal at St James Church

7.30pm: START Course at St John's Church

4th 10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion

2.30pm: Lent Group at Church House

5th 7.30pm: Lent Group at 18 Widney Lane

6th 10.30am: World Day of Prayer Service at Shirley Methodist Church

7th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 65 Baxters Road

8th THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

11.30am: The Friends of St James Walking Club

9th 11am: Elizabeth House Holy Communion

10th 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House

7.30pm: START Course at St John's Church

11th 10.30am: Coffee Morning at St John's Church

2.30pm: Lent Group at Church House

12th 11.30am: Easter Journey Rehearsal at St James Church

7.30pm: Lent Group at 18 Widney Lane

14th 8.30am: Parish Prayers at 18 Widney Lane

7.30pm: Candlelit Supper at Church House

15th THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

17th ST PATRICK

12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House

7.30pm: START Course at St John's Church

18th 10am: Shirpas Walk at Tardebigge

10.45am: Swallows Meadow Holy Communion

2.30pm: Lent Group at Church House

OUR PARISH DIARY FOR MARCH 2020 *continued*

19th ST JOSEPH OF NAZARETH

3.30pm: Messy Church at Widney School

7.30pm: Mothers' Union at Church House

7.30pm: Lent Group at 18 Widney Lane

21st 8.30am: Parish Prayers at St James Church

10am: Messy Church at Church House

22nd THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - MOTHERING SUNDAY

23rd - 27th Easter Journey at St James Church

24th 2pm: Tuesday Café at Church House

7.30pm: START Course at St John's Church

25th THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

2.30pm: Lent Group at Church House

4.00pm: Contemplative Prayer at St James Church

7.30pm: PCC Meeting at St John's Church

26th 7.30pm: Lent Group at 18 Widney Lane

28th 8.30pm: Parish Prayers at 34 Arnold Road

10.30am: Coffee Morning & Nearly New Clothes Sale at Church House

BRITISH SUMMER TIME – CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR

29th THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

10.30am: CTK and St John's Joint Service at Widney School

31st 12noon: Ploughman's Lunch at Church House

7.30pm: START Course at St John's Church

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

APRIL 2020 PARISH MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION & ARTICLES - Thursday 12th March

PUBLICATION DATE - Saturday 28th March

The Friends of St James The Great

Candlelit Supper

14th March 2020

7.30 pm in Church House

Bar available

Tickets £13.50
from the
Parish Office



**FOR FAMILIES OF ALL AGES,
SHAPES AND SIZES ...**

Thursday 19th March

3.30pm at Widney Junior School

Saturday 21st March

10am at Church House

**March
22nd is**



Join us for 'All Age Worship' at St James Church (10am)
or at Christ the King Church (10.30am) or for
Holy Eucharist at St John's Church (9am)

You can buy special gifts for your mother from Mothers' Union or remember your mother by sending a gift to Mothers Union to help empower women around the world
<https://www.mothersunion.org/mothering-sunday>

LOOK FOR GOOD PASTURE – SPEND TIME WITH GOOD PEOPLE

There are some people who inspire you to be all you can as a Christian. When you meet one of these, it is a good idea to stay near them, and learn all you can from them. We are affected by the people whom we spend time with – pray that you will meet people who will lift you up, and not drag you down, in your Christian walk. The Bible says: ‘He who walks with wise men will be wise.’ (Proverbs 13:20)

Many Christians admit that their present Christian faith was built on the wonderful example of Christians they met during their teenage years. They were inspired and encouraged and moulded by these older Christians. What a wonderful gift they were given! Good spiritual nourishment is vital for building a strong, vibrant faith.

Seeing God bless someone else can increase your own desire to reach higher, and also be blessed in that way. When you see a ‘successful’ Christian, don’t be envious, and want to sabotage them. Instead, be inspired and ask God to use *you* in some fruitful way. But remember – Jesus said that HE is the vine, and we are only the branches. No branch is ever going to flourish unless it stays deeply attached to the vine.

EAT SEASONALLY

Eco-warriors who lead protest marches may have good intent, but what are they doing at home? Are they block-paving their gardens or eating avocados, for example?

Alan Titchmarsh, writing in his recent column in *Gardeners’ World*, points out: “We cannot berate members of the Royal family and global superstars for flying hither and yon in private jets if we buy strawberries in January, for they, too, will have necessitated the burning of fossil fuel to reach our table.”

Titchmarsh says that if we really want to make a difference, we should eat seasonally. “I yearn for a return to English apples and pears in autumn and winter, strawberries and raspberries in summer, and asparagus from April to June.

And while he would not deprive anyone of “a slice of lemon for their G&T,” he does worry “about the growing consumption of avocados, which is causing the destruction of Mexican rainforests to make way for avocado plantations.”

So instead of avocados this month, why not consider some artichoke, beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage (both Savoy and white), carrots, chicory, cauliflowers, endives, fennel, or spinach, to name but a few of the vegetables in season in March?

COFFEE & CAKES & NEARLY NEW CLOTHES SALE



Saturday
28th March
10.30am to 12noon
in Church House



SHIRLEY COMMUNITY
GOSPEL CHOIR

Happy
EVERYDAY

TENTH
ANNIVERSARY
CONCERT

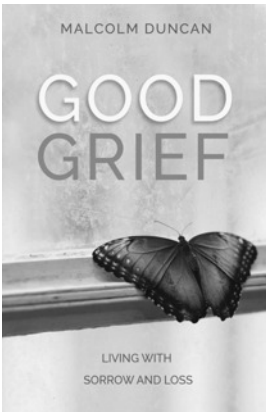
Happy
EVERYDAY

Saturday 28th March
7.00pm

St. James the Great
Shirley

FREE with refreshments, and a retiring collection for
The OHMI Trust
(The One Handed Musical Instrument Trust)

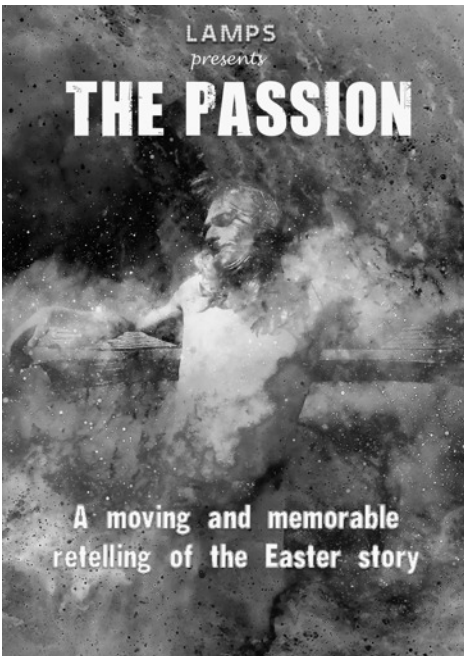
BOOK REVIEW - 'GOOD GRIEF' BY MALCOLM DUNCAN



We all walk through grief and loss. It comes in many shapes and forms. As a husband, father, son and a pastor for the past thirty-four years, Malcolm Duncan has experienced loss in many forms. Duncan has seen grief destroy some people, and his own experience of loss and grief came close to destroying him. Yet God has carried him through.

In this intensely personal journal, Duncan guides the reader through grief and loss, examining how it changes us, and affirms that God is with us every step of the way. Intimate and well-grounded in scripture, Malcolm Duncan shows us that no matter how dark it gets, the light of His grace will always be there.

PALM SUNDAY - 5th APRIL AT SHIRLEY BAPTIST CHURCH



Who are LAMPS? - We are a collective of Christian artists who create, produce and perform theatre, music and comedy events and creative resources for the church.

What is The Passion? - Performed by a cast of three talented professional actors, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus are recreated in a moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter events.

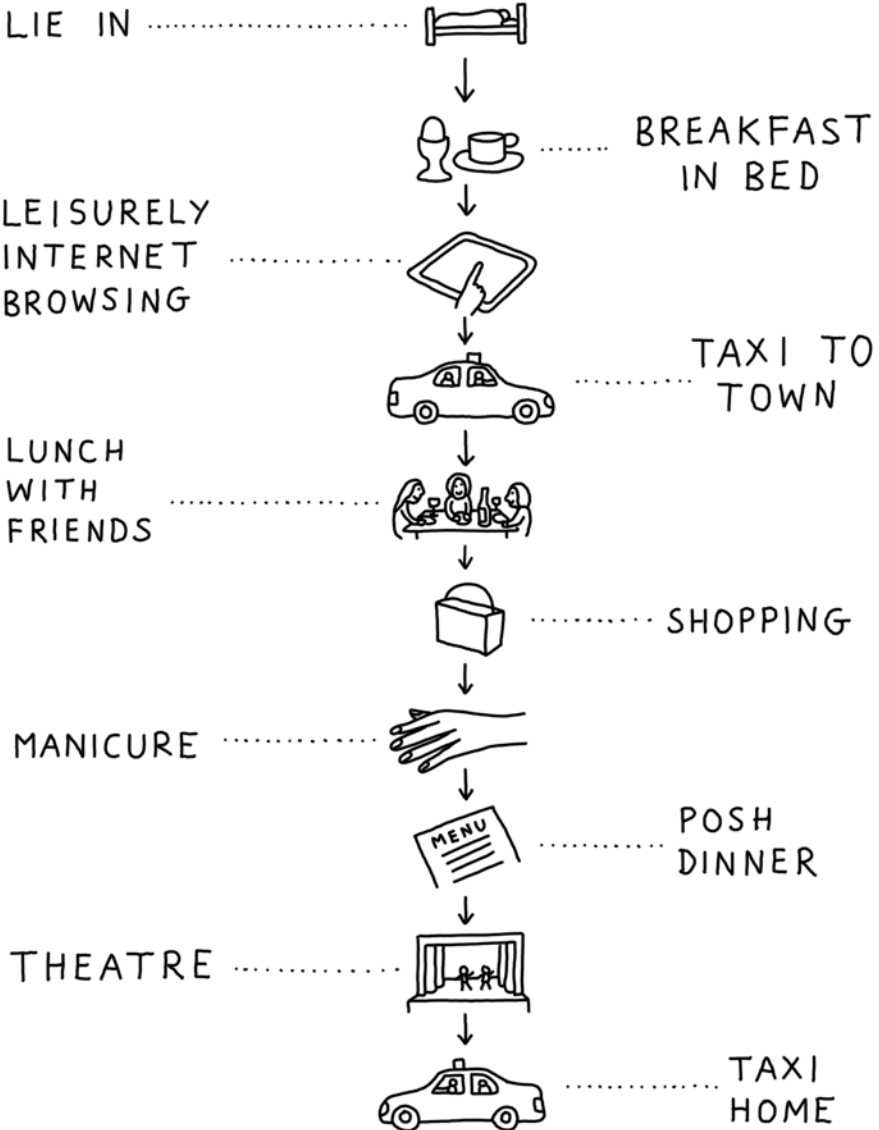
Told from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus, The Passion leads us up to and through the events of Holy Week, the cross and beyond.

Tickets will cost £5 each from Shirley Baptist Church – watch for more details on the weekly pew leaflet.

Note - There will be NO Reflective Evening Worship at St John's that day

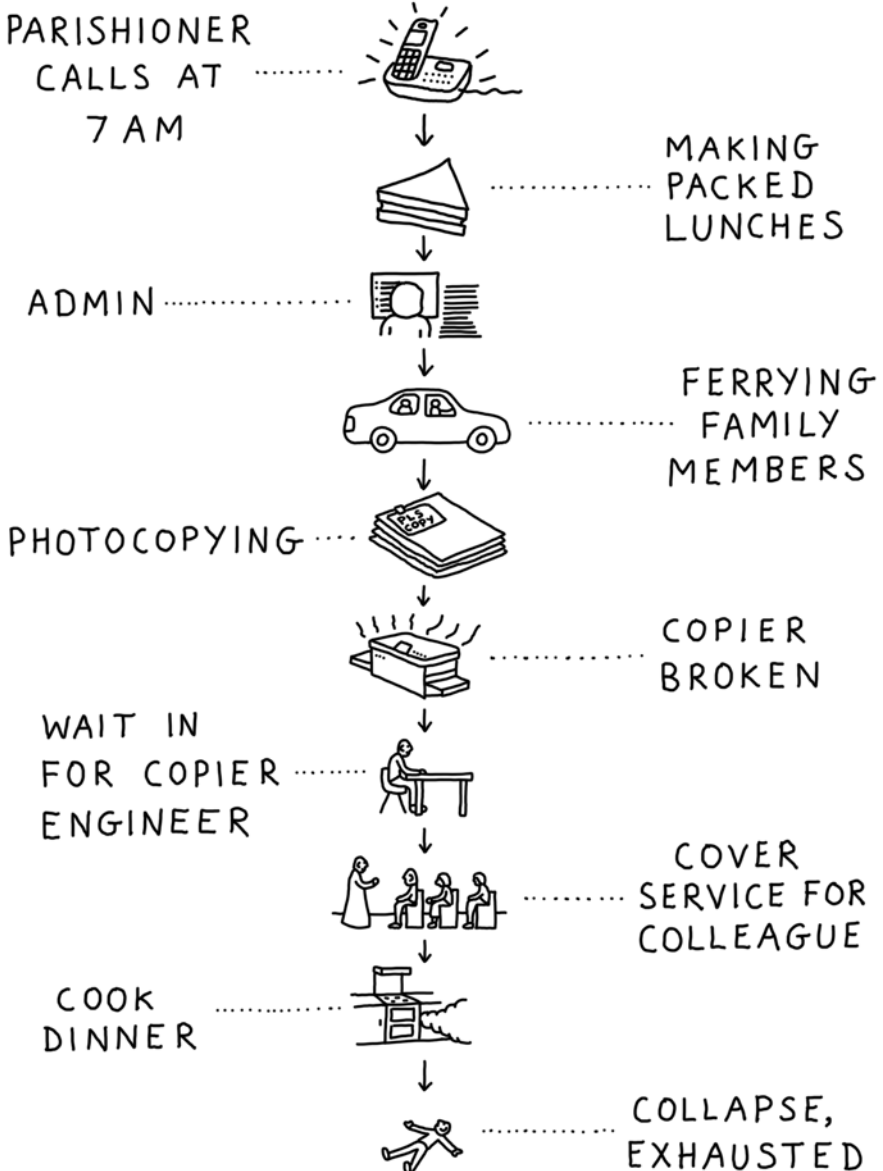
THE VICAR'S DAY OFF!

WHAT PEOPLE THINK HAPPENS



THE VICAR'S DAY OFF!

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS



THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

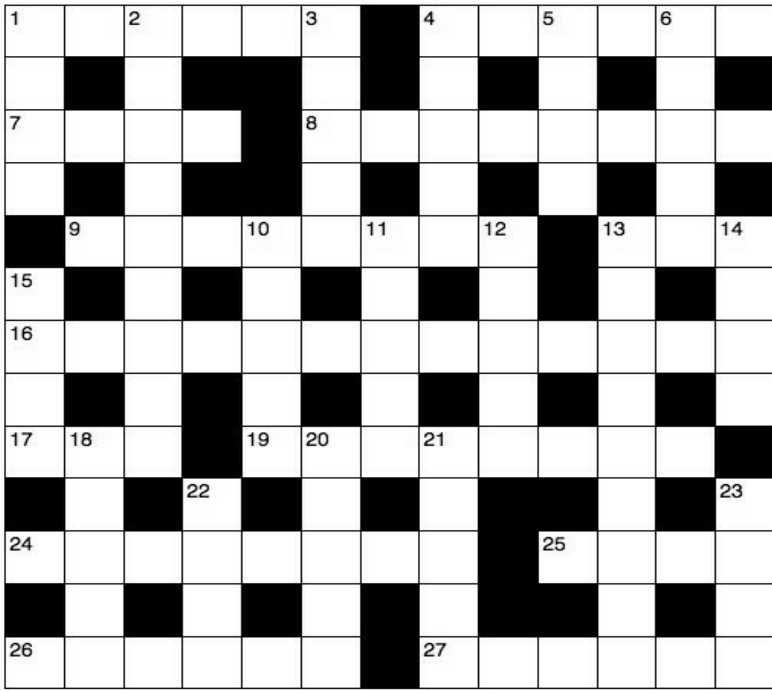
Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)
 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
 6 To put forth (5)
 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel'
 (Genesis 25:26) (5)
 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request
 (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me'
 (Luke 22:34) (4)
 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
 22 Does (anag.) (4)
 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

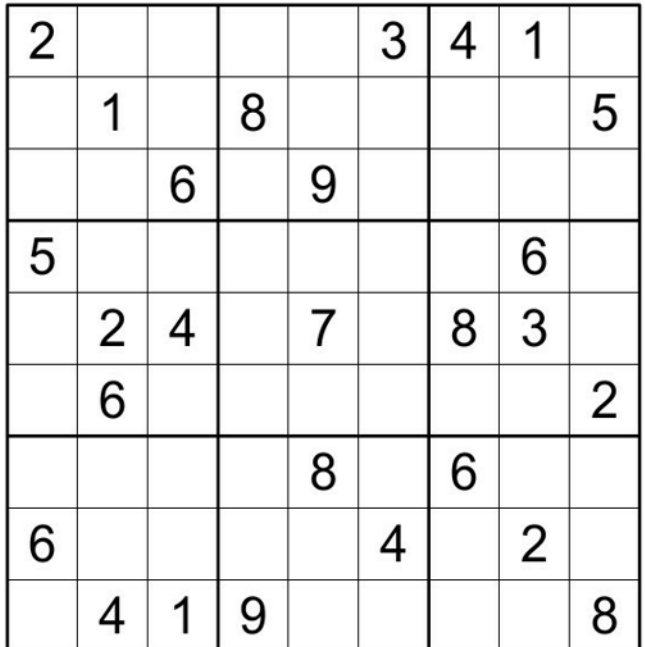
THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



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



Answers are on page 31





STEPHEN & PHILIP
PAINTER

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED

TEL: 0121 707 1172

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

NEW HALL GREEN OFFICE NOW OPEN

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

TEL: 0121 777 4300

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

24 HOUR SERVICE

WWW.STEPHENANDPHILIPPAINTER.COM



UMBERSLADE™
ARBORICULTURE

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

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

Mob - 07776191218

Tel - 01564332938

Email - edwardh@umbersldearboriculture.co.uk

www.umbersldearb.co.uk



MARCH WORDSEARCH

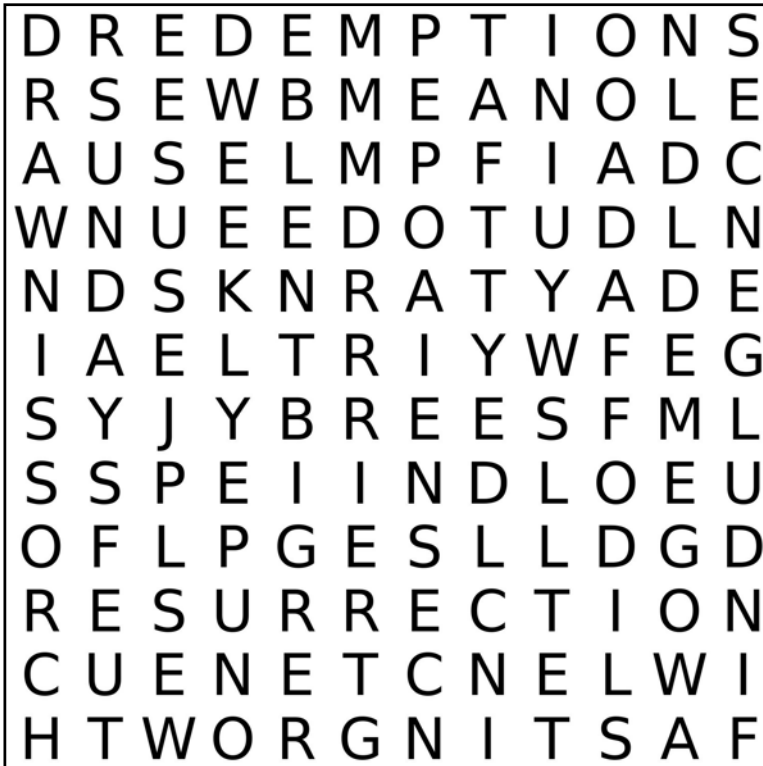
Lent lasts for forty days. Sundays in Lent are 'oases'; as Sunday is never a day of fasting, but a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Christians have used Lent as their 'forty days in the wilderness', when they set aside the indulgences of life and instead look inward, seeking spiritual renewal and growth.

Lent looks towards the Cross and the Empty Tomb, with the assurance of redemption and new life in Christ. The daffodils in our gardens are golden trumpets to proclaim the wonderful message of Easter! The English word for Lent is not at all religious; it is an abbreviation of the Old English word 'lencten', or 'lengthen'.

At last winter is over, and the days are getting longer...



*Answers are on
page 31*



CELEBRATION

CROSS

DAFFODILS

DAYS

EMPTY

FASTING

FORTY

GROWTH

INDULGENCES

INWARD

JESUS

LENCTEN

LENT

REDEMPTION

RENEWAL

RESURRECTION

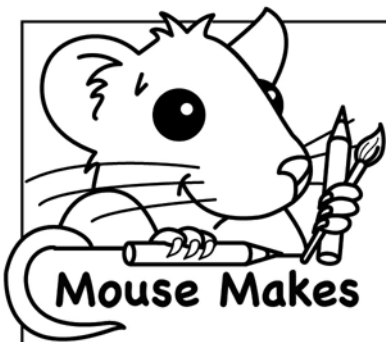
SPIRITUAL

SUNDAYS

TOMB

WEEKLY

WILDERNESS

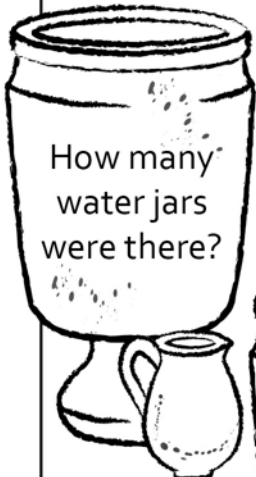


Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary had been invited to a wedding. The wedding was to last a week, but too soon the wine had all been drunk.

READ John 2:1-11 to find out what happened.



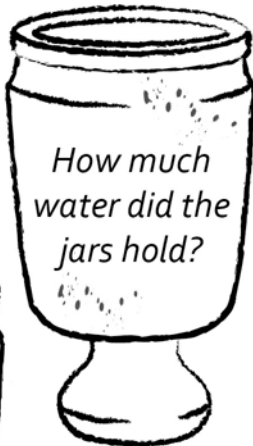
Where was the wedding?



How many water jars were there?



What were the water jars made of?



How much water did the jars hold?



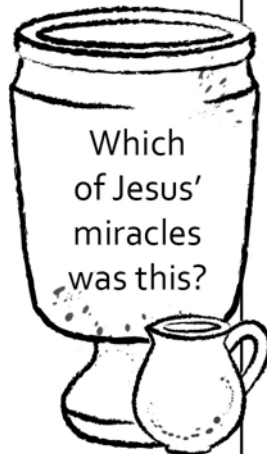
What were the water jars for?



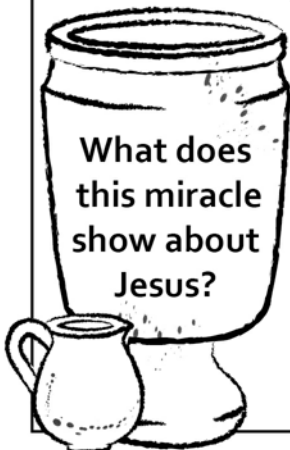
What did the disciples do?

What did the steward tell the bridegroom?

What had happened to the water when it was taken out?



Which of Jesus' miracles was this?



What does this miracle show about Jesus?

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

WEDDING • CANA • GALILEE • JESUS • MARY • DISCIPLES
SERVANTS • RAN • OUT • SIX • STONE • WATER • JARS
FILL • TOP • TASTE • TURNED • WINE • FIRST

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the February winners
£50 - Jackie Howse
£25 - Pat Coward

PODIATRIST / CHIROPODIST

Surgery and Home Visits

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

HPC REGISTERED

Tel: 0121 733 1292

193 Creynolds Lane, Shirley B90 4ES

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS



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

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

GLENFIELD
HOUSE
NURSING HOME

an elegant house in
rural surroundings....

For further information or a viewing
please contact Glenfield directly
or visit our website
www.glenfieldhouse.co.uk

Tel: 01564 823795



A Home from Home in the Countryside

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

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

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



The Roof Repair Co.

Leaking roof

**24 hour
service**

From A Minor Repair To A New Roof

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

Guttering Re-
paired &
Cleaned Out
from £25

Registered with Age Concern

Repairs
from as lit-
tle as £35

FREE QUOTATION Without Obligation

FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

0121 604 2104 / 07956 228 842

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

February	2nd	Rozie Corinne Stacey Mills
	9th	Leo Harry Eric Dunhill-Eddins Ella Jessie Beatrice Dunhill-Eddins
	23rd	Aurora Isla Chapman

FUNERALS

February	3rd	George Bennet Stevens	97
	12th	Maurice Lane	94



eglc EARLSWOOD[®]

GARDEN & LANDSCAPE CENTRE

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



✿ **Best ever plant centre with fresh stock arriving daily**

✿ **Comprehensive range of garden products**

✿ **Lovely Coffee Shop by Wedges Bakery**

EARLSWOOD GARDEN & LANDSCAPE CENTRE

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

t. 01564 702 314 e. info@earlswoodglc.co.uk www.earlswoodglc.co.uk



Williams Ashton & Anderson Limited

ACCOUNTANTS

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

* **Accounts Preparation**

* **Self-Assessment
Tax Returns**
(from £75)

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

*Call Kay for an
informal discussion*

Tel: 0121 706 7706

359 Yardley Rd, Yardley,
Birmingham B25 8NB

Decorating Plus ... (Odd Jobs)

B90 and nearby

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

(Another Local Handyman !)

Flowers and Plants for Every Occasion



Vi STEVENS LTD



Floral Designers

Personal Attention to All your Floral Requirements

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



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

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

Telephone : 0121 733 2347 or 07973 942145

Email : shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com

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

SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE *continued*

READERS

Kate Day

email: kate_day@me.com

Tel: 0121 537 9672

Gill Gough

email: g.gough@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0121 603 2636

Sarah Penfold

email: sarahpenfold@blueyonder.co.uk

Tel: 0121 681 1525

Denise Smith

email: deesmith1181@hotmail.com

Tel: 01564 822606

Graham Smith

email: graydecentaur@hotmail.com

Tel: 01564 822606

CHURCH WARDENS

Parish Wardens

Margaret Foreshew Tel: 0121 603 9833
email: mhforeshew@gmail.com

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

Deputy Wardens - St James the Great Church

Kate Crocker Linda Pitt
Tel: 0121 258 2956 Tel: 0121 744 6777

Deputy Wardens - Christ the King Church

Denise Smith Graham Smith
Tel: 01564 822606 Tel: 01564 822606

Deputy Wardens - St John the Divine Church

Linda Alford Sue Barnard
Tel: 0121 430 4785 Tel: 0121 430 4453

SHIRLEY PARISH



**KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

MUSIC

Bellringers - St James the Great Church

Colin Baugh
Tel: 0121 744 1361

Organist & Choirmaster - St James the Great Church

Kevin Gill
Tel: 0121 705 0987

Organist - St John the Divine Church

Shirley Beedon

PCC SECRETARY

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

PCC TREASURER

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

* PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW OF ANY CHANGES *



C Bastock Ltd

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors since 1856

Shirley Funeral Home

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

Solihull Funeral Home

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

Yardley Funeral Home

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



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

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

Free, no obligation help and advice.

www.cbastock.co.uk



Bastock & Bruce Ltd

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



A partnership between C. Bastock Ltd and Bruce Bragg

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

Knowle Funeral Home

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

01564 335577 (24 hour)

Serving all the surrounding areas

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

www.bastockandbruce.co.uk