



**Shirley Parish**

Christ the King  
St James the Great  
St John the Divine

KNOWING CHRIST, MAKING HIM KNOWN

# September 2024 Magazine



# SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also inside the back cover)

CLERGY

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

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

## OUR SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Sunday 1st	10.30am 6pm	Parish Communion Reflective Worship	St James Church St James Church
Thursday 5th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 8th	8am 9am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	St James Church St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church
Thursday 12th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 15th	9am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship Holy Communion Morning Worship	St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church
Thursday 19th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Saturday 21st	10am	Messy Church	St James Church
Sunday 22nd	8am 9am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Worship 4 Everyone Holy Communion	St James Church St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church
Thursday 26th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
Sunday 29th  <b>HARVEST FESTIVAL</b>	8am 9am 10.30am 10.30am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Forest Church	St James Church St John's Church St James Church Christ the King Church St John's Garden

Nicene Creed Sermon Series	Date	Readings		
Forgiveness	September 1st	Psalm 103: 8-14	Ephesians 1: 3-10	Luke 15: 11-32
Everlasting Life	September 8th	Job 19: 23-27	1 Corinthians 15: 20-28	John 11: 17-44
We believe	September 15th	Deuteronomy 6: 1-9	Romans 10: 9-17	John 3: 1-16

**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

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# Mothers' UNION

Linda Pitt opened our July meeting and welcomed all present and commenced with prayers.

Linda introduced our speaker Reverend Nigel Jones for a talk about his time as a Prison Chaplain. After his retirement from St Margarets, Olton, Nigel was unsure of his next journey, although in the background a suggestion had been made to him, had he considered the role of a prison chaplain. As if it was meant to be, in the Church Times a vacancy was advertised for a Prison Chaplain. After a lot of thought and prayer he followed the advert up and was successful in obtaining the post of Prison Chaplain of a privately run prison company.

Nigel had to go through twenty-four procedures of unlocking doors within the prison complex to get to his office. There was multifaith chapel accessible by all. Morning Prayer was well attended.

Within the prison it was like a small village offering different work and education opportunities for the people serving their sentence there. The prisoners also worked in the kitchens preparing and cooking the food for staff and prisoners.

Nigel gave us a small insight into a world vastly different to what we are used to, a sobering thought.

*Susan Knight*

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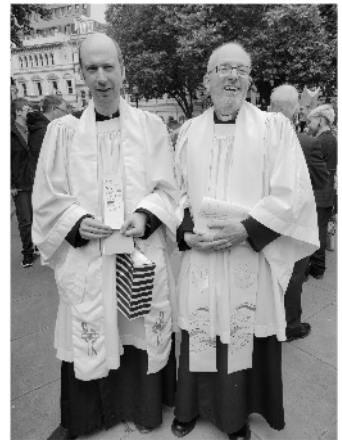
Dear all

I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole parish for the support you gave to me, and the joy you expressed for me, as I was ordained priest in July. This was the culmination of many years of work and following a year serving as a deacon in the parish, where from the first moment, you welcomed Ruth and me into the 'Shirley family' with open arms and warm hearts. The number of cards and gifts I have received has been humbling, and please forgive me if I have failed to thank you personally – but please know I am truly very grateful. The cards and gifts will be a memento of this special time (the ordination and the curacy) and I will cherish these. So again, thank you for sharing this special time with me and I look forward to serving you as a priest over the remainder of my curacy here.

Also, Ruth and I want to express our enormous gratitude at the way you responded to help us, prayerfully and practically, following Ruth's accident in May. This was obviously a difficult time and placed a great deal of stress on us, emotionally and practically. Therefore, the prayers, the checking in on us, the cards and flowers, and the amount of (delicious and nutritious) food you cooked for us, was much needed and greatly appreciated. This really did help us at a time of great need and upheaval and was truly an example of God's love in action. Thank you!

With love, gratitude and blessings,

*Richard and Ruth Haynes*



Yet again, aren't we lucky to have had another super buffet on Saturday to celebrate Richard's ordination. Needless to say it's with many thanks to Jan Dalton and the team for all their hard work getting it all together on beautifully laid tables etc.

Bless you all and top marks!

*Liz Blakey*

## 'THANK YOU' FROM ST JOHN'S



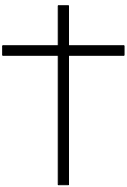
A big 'thank you' to all those who came to the Strawberry Tea in our garden on Saturday 20th July. A good time was had by all despite the rather abrupt ending when it started to rain!

**Our next Coffee Morning will be on Monday 9th September at 10.30am - all welcome!**

Another big 'thank you' to the Creators Theatre Company (who use the church for rehearsals) for presenting us with a new banner for outside the church - ready for our 100th birthday next year.

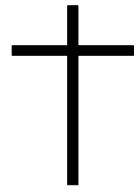


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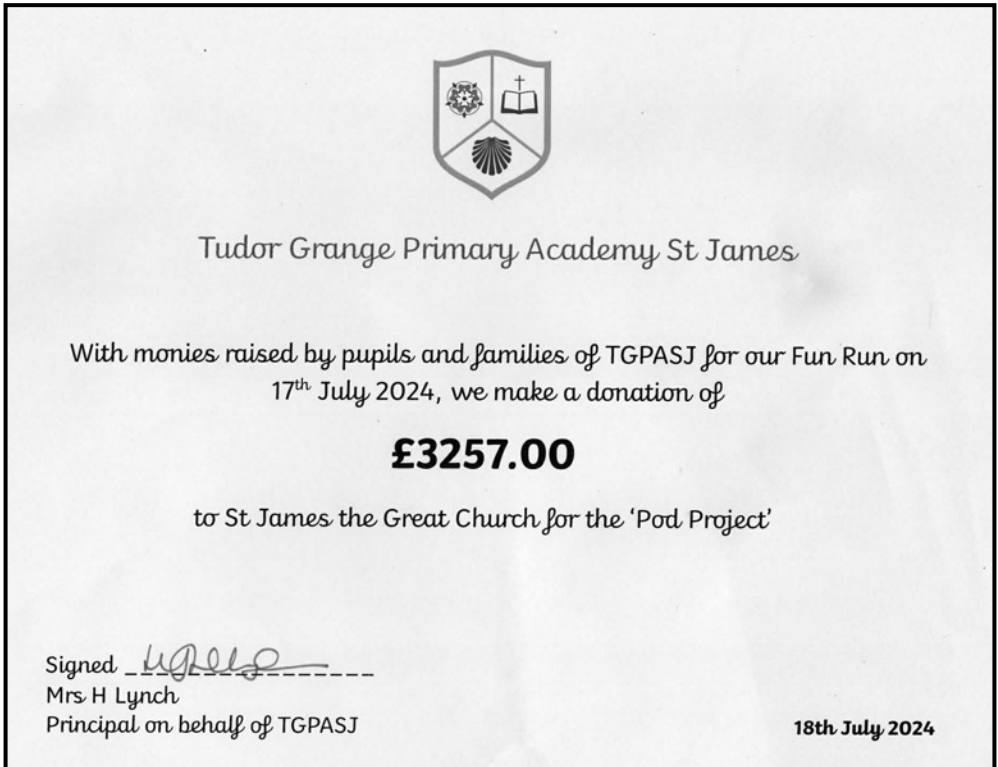
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## POD PROJECT - UPDATE

We were both delighted and amazed to be presented with this certificate at Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James School's end of year service -



You may have heard the good news that we have reached our fundraising target for the Pod Project. So many people have helped, and we have raised over £60K in just twelve months!

Special thanks to everyone in the Parish who donated or raised funds, to the Friends, the PCC, Solihull MBC CIL Fund, the Grimmitt Trust, the Beatrice Laing Trust, The Edward Cadbury Trust, the Benefact Trust, the Garfield Weston Trust, Tudor Grange Academy St James School and several anonymous donors.

Phase 1 of the project, the construction of the drain connection, has been completed. We now need to work with our architect and builder to plan the construction of the Pod itself and the groundworks, laying the drain to the road.

We are having a meeting with the architect and builder on 15th August to take this forward. Watch this space!

*Kate Crocker*



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## **SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB**

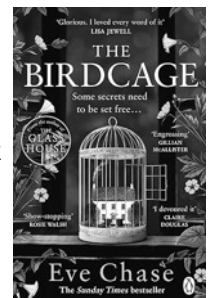
### **I Let You Go by Clare Mackintosh**

We all agreed that it was impossible to write a detailed review of this book without giving the plot away, so here is a very carefully worded review of our latest read. The book starts with a hit and run and the death of a young boy, it's a real thriller, a page turner and full of surprises, twists and turns. The tragedy comes to dominate and haunt the surrounding community, its police force, particularly the two detectives assigned to the case, a young artist, Jenna Gray and the novel's readers. After the death, Jenna runs away to hide in a small Welsh seaside village. She is running away from the awful death of course, from the overwhelming grief that engulfs her and – from something else. You will have to read the novel to find out. Everyone of us really enjoyed it and we were all gripped from start to finish!

We welcomed a new member, Jeanette, at our meeting in July. If you fancy joining us then please do, we have a cuppa and a biscuit and a friendly chat. We meet in Church House on a Monday afternoon, look out for the date and time in the pew sheet.

The next book we are reading is **The Birdcage by Eve Chase**.

*Belinda Piasecki*



## HOSPITALITY

Who is the patron Saint of Hospitality?

Well, its Martha of course, the one who was very busy in the kitchen preparing and cooking food, for all her guests and that included Jesus.

Martha was one of Jesus closest friends and it was she that ran out to greet Jesus, whenever he came to visit them.

So, it got me thinking about the Martha's in our churches, how we greet people and, yes, this last week it has seen us run outside to greet our guests.

Who are these important guests that make us want to reach out to them with open hands inviting them in?

They are none other than the workmen who are working on the Pod project outside St James Church.

So, on Tuesday as soon as the boiler had boiled, I went over the road and invited them to come over for coffee, tea and cake. Whilst they couldn't actually leave the site that morning due to a cement lorry arriving and having to get the "dig" sorted before it arrived, I took their order and a selection of cakes over to them. We also refilled their flasks for them.

Wednesday was the ploughman's lunches and again, as soon as everything was ready, an invite was sent over the road, but all they required was tea, coffee and biscuits which was prepared and delivered to them.

Thursday saw us all in Church House sharing in a Eucharist service for our Patron - Saint James. Reverend Theresa told us all about the pilgrim walk of the Camino de Santiago which ends in the Cathedral where it is believed St James bones are laid to rest.

This pilgrimage is undertaken by lots of pilgrims each year seeking spiritual growth and connection with this apostle and his teachings.

The one thing that these pilgrims enjoy is a slice of Tarta de Santiago cake. This is made of almonds and is very moist and it is also gluten free.

So, we had this cake after the communion service along with a slide show of the various places along the way.

Just like the other days, the workmen were invited over to join in with the coffee, tea and the famous Tarta de Santiago. They did as they were in a position to be able to take a break and join us for the tasting of this cake.

There were a lot of us there but only two cakes, but somehow, we all had a fair-sized slice of it and even some left over.

This brought to mind Jesus feeding the five thousand with just five barley loaves and two fish, where lots were left over.

Theresa taught us that her motto was "Give a little but feed a lot".

I now think of that each time I see a Food Bank collection. It's not how much you give, but it's as long as you are able to give a little, then with others doing the same lots more will be fed.

I think that started with Martha as she was a very hospitable woman, always making sure everyone was fed and given something to drink.

The workmen said they had never had it so good with offers of food, drinks and cake. "Who can refuse cake?" said one of the workmen.

So well done to all the many Marthas in our parish and to St James for showing us all that it's good to be like Jesus and love thy neighbour as ourselves, even if it's only cake on offer that day.

*Love and prayers, Denise Smith (Reader)*



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## WHEN THE SEA WAS THE MOTORWAY

One of the places we visited on our holiday this year was Whithorn. My guess is that many of you have never heard of it. These days it's a sleepy village a mile or two from the coast at the southern end of Galloway – overlooking the Solway Firth.

Its hard to imagine how this sleepy village was once a place of major importance to the Christian faith – it was in fact the location of the first Christian church in Scotland – predating the establishment of Iona as a centre of the faith. The church was founded by St Ninian who was the first person to preach the Christian gospel in Scotland. A monastery was established and Whithorn soon became a pilgrimage site as people travelled to visit the shrine of St Ninian. Indeed, today there is recently established 146 mile pilgrimage route from Glasgow Cathedral if you fancy 13 days of walking! (who knows, we might tackle it one day!)

There is an excellent visitor centre and museum at Whithorn, displaying many of the Christian standing stones and gravestones from the area and giving a comprehensive history of the site. There is also a replica Iron Age roundhouse based on an excavated examples dating back to 400BC. It gives a really interesting insight into what life must have been like.

Whithorn though appeared to us to be fairly deserted – indeed we weren't even sure if the visitor centre was open, which seems a shame as there is much to see. One wonders why tourists flock to Iona (for example) but have never heard of Whithorn – which could be seen as more important to the spreading of the Christian faith through Scotland.

Both Whithorn and Iona are on the coast, as is Holy Island (Lindisfarne) off the Northumberland Coast. But from these places – which seem to be remote and inaccessible places today – the Christian gospel spread throughout Scotland and the North of England. Why would that be? The simple answer is that in those days travel by land was slow and hazardous. Much of the land was covered in dense forest in which lurked any number of dangers. To travel across Scotland, for example, would have been nigh on impossible. In any case, population centres were on the coast or on rivers. Travel by sea was quicker and safer and more reliable. These remote places now on the extremities of our country were the ideal locations to travel distances from. The seas were indeed the motorways of the age.



These days the remoteness of places like Iona, Holy Island and Whithorn are part of their attraction. However, we need to bear in mind that they weren't always that quiet – they were busy places situated at what were effectively motorway junctions!

*Reverend Paul Day*

# Mothers' UNION

Our August meeting opened to the music of By The Sleepy Lagoon a song popularly known in its instrumental version as the theme for the BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs introducing our own Desert Island Discs.



Linda Pitt welcomed our host Ray Speakman, and he introduced our castaways Reverend Richard Haynes and his wife Ruth.

Ray asked Richard first how he came to Shirley Parish, did he choose us or we did we choose him? Richard replied that it was a bit of both. Richard hails from the Black Country and had previously worked for a Plant Hire Company. Ruth is a Worcester girl born and bred. She worked for the well-known catalogue company Kay and Co., synonymous with Worcester. Ruth now works part time in the Edgbaston Deanery.

Richard said the warmth and the welcome that they have both received in Shirley had made them feel very much part of the parish. Ray thanked them both for being with us tonight.

Ruth's first choice of music was "Drag Racer" a 1976 rock instrumental song by Doug Wood. It is the BBC snooker theme tune. Snooker has always been an important part of her life and a passion she also shares with Richard. In her family home there was a six foot snooker table in the dining room which she and her brother used to play on. Ruth was a carer for her mother. She was also Captain of the Ladies Pool Team in Worcester.

Richard's first choice was the Reggae instrumental by Harry J All Stars the 'Liquidator' which is played pre match at 'The Hawthorns' - West Bromwich Albion. Richard has been a keen supporter of WBA since he was eight and it holds special memories of time spent with his dad at football matches following his parents' divorce when he was eleven.

Ray asked Ruth about her next choice 'The Sun Always Shines on TV' by A-Ha, as the singer refers to his ever-worrying mind and was that her? Ruth replied 'no'. In her home the television was always on for her Mum - whilst the BBC channel was the most popular choice, ITV was the favourite in their home with the soaps Emmerdale Farm and Coronation Street and they hold special memories for her. At this time Ruth was also involved in the Talking Newspaper for the Blind.

Richard met Ruth in 2008 and his next choice 'Human' by the Killers had just been released and it seemed to feature prominently in their early days: –

"I did my best to notice  
When the call came down the line".....

## DESERT ISLAND DISCS *continued*

For Ruth's next choice it could be nothing else other than Elgar's 'Nimrod' with her Worcester connections.

Richard was asked how he was going to match Ruth's choice and where does 'The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba' by Handel fit in with your life. It is a special piece of classical music was the reply.

Ruth has a great love of cycling and enjoys the peace and tranquillity of God's love all around in nature when she is out and about on her bicycle. There is no other obvious choice than 'I Want to Ride my Bicycle' song by Queen.

'The Throne Room' from Star Wars was Richard's next choice, for him it is cinema magic from his childhood and retains perpetual youth.

Ruth and Richard's last choice had been chosen together 'Soul Limbo' by Booker T and the MG's. It is recognised as the BBC's theme for test cricket coverage. They both share a love for cricket albeit Ruth supporting Worcestershire and Richard supporting Warwickshire.

Finally, our castaways were asked what books they would take with them besides the Bible and the works of Shakespeare. For Ruth it would be 'Mission Praise' audio book and for Richard 'History of Christianity' by Diarmaid MacCulloch. Their luxury items would be for Ruth a telescope to look at the moon and stars and for Richard a bicycle to enjoy the love and the freedom, free from distractions. Their one choice of music was for Ruth Sir Edward Elgar and was Star Wars 'Throne Room' for Richard to keep perpetually young.

Thank you to Ray for being our host and to Ruth and Richard for being our castaways, it was a wonderful evening.

Our next meeting in on **Wednesday 4th September at 2pm** in Church House – a talk by Lorraine and Paul Hoskins on the RNLI.

Visitors are most welcome to any of our meetings.

*Susan Knight*

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# Mothers' UNION

## Christian care for families

### Diocese of Birmingham

Many of us have become accustomed to having meetings over Zoom, an excellent way of bringing people together who may not be able to meet in person.

For the first time, on August 5th, Mothers' Union Birmingham organised a Zoom meeting which could be accessed by all members of our diocese.

The speaker was Sue Leach from St Alphege branch who spoke on the suffragettes. It is a subject very close to Sue's heart as two of her aunts were very active in the suffragette movement.

The founding member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was Emmeline Pankhurst. The motto for the organisation was 'Deeds not Words'. Most of us know of the actions and hardships the women went through to secure votes for women. Sue spoke with feeling and great pride for what her ancestors had achieved to give voting rights to women, the rights we enjoy today.

After Sue's talk we went into 'breakout' groups which gave an opportunity for us to chat to fellow members and discuss what individual branches are doing to further the work of Mothers' Union locally and throughout the world.

The next Zoom meeting will be on **September 26th**. Let me know if you would like to join the meeting.

If you are interested in finding out more about Mothers' Union contact Emily in the Parish Office and she will give you a telephone number and name to contact.

August 9th was Mary Sumner's day, the founder of Mothers' Union. This is her personal prayer.

*All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives  
as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by  
thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen*

Linda Pitt

## OUT AND ABOUT... IN A 'DOG COLLAR'

Listening, in a desultory fashion, to 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4 one morning, I was suddenly captivated by the speaker who mentioned the word '*hesed*'. It struck a chord in me as he went on to explain that it is the Hebrew word meaning 'kindness'. It is indeed and can mean even more than that, appearing in the Old Testament 240 times, and frequently used in the Psalms. The word '*hesed*', as it appears in the Old Testament, describes God's '*loving – kindness, mercy and faithful love*' to His people. It is one of His most central characteristics and is offered to His people who need redemption from sin, enemies and troubles. As the day wore on, I found the word cropping up from time to time.

I needed to look at my mobile phone and noticed a bench in the shade of a shopping centre precinct. On the bench was a notice: 'Sit here if you want to chat'. A woman at one end noticed me as I came near and, interested in which church I came from, started up a conversation. She went on to speak about the kindness of people and had a positive outlook on the world.

A man arrived and sat on the bench and she sought his opinion on the subject. However, his attitude was completely different and he warned her, quite vehemently, against being so trusting of others before he left us. I was glad he left as their level of disagreement was becoming worrying. The woman wanted to know more about St James Church, and having been there long ago commented that it was beautiful and she wanted to go there again.

### Happy to chat bench



Later in the day I noticed a man sitting on the ground counting coppers from a plastic cup.

I stopped and said hello.

Guessing my suspicions he went on to tell me that he was free from drugs but needed a so called 'clean house' to live in, where no-one used drugs. He believed that would help him to avoid any temptation to return to his former state which had led to him being estranged from his family. He said that once, when his life had reached rock bottom, someone passing by spoke to him and asked him if he knew the Lord's Prayer. He said he did as he had learned it in school and so he began to stumble through it.



He went on to speak of that particular encounter which brought about change in him. After that experience he tried to get his life on a better footing and was now in touch with his family again. I asked if he still said the Lord's Prayer and he said yes, every day. He said people were very kind to him. That word again! 'Hesed', the *loving kindness* of the Lord, active in the world and represented for him on that occasion by a passer-by.

That same day a member of the parish told me that her granddaughter was to study Hebrew and Latin at university. I suggested she might surprise and impress her by asking: "What does the word 'hesed' mean?"

*The loving kindness of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end;  
They are new every morning, great is Your faithfulness.*

(Lamentations of Jeremiah Chapter 3 v 22-23)

*Reverend Theresa Jones*

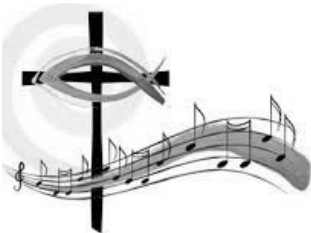
## HYMNS AND MEANING

I've always enjoyed hymns, and recently I'm finding comfort as their sturdy, reliable rhythms ride easily with my damaged mind. There's some theology there to check on, some meaty mystery to explore or an understandable change of words to meet current sensitivities, a school hall perhaps and some gowned men. An appreciation of this valued tradition follows, challenging the devil's right to the best tunes. But now I hear it in my head irreverently bawled out on a rugby coach trip representing this time, a togetherness, sharing and union. Whether ancient or modern, the hymns are clumped conveniently to events of life and season.

But I've found both pleasure and insight in addition for my long search by reading hymns as well as singing them. This out-loud articulation intensifies the meaning and purpose of the hymnod, now unchained from its noted minims, quavers and crochets and giving feedback to the sung lyrics, increasing their power.

So, on this fine English summer's morning, I'm not rather thoughtlessly and without tuneful appeal exhorting the people of Hall Green to contemplations of their common tasks through the open bathroom window.

No, I'll spare them that. I'm quietly but seriously whispering to myself, a pause here, an emphasis there, to examine what it's reasonable to ask as I go down, stairlifted, to buttered toast and today's civil rounds.



*Don Abbey*

## HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED

You may recall that a Pantry Scheme was started last spring at St. John's Food Bank, Sparkhill. On the payment of £5, folks can come weekly and choose three items from the proffered higher price range of goods, and seven from the lower price range; the final value usually amounts to about £20/£25. The emphasis is on choosing the items of your own choice, rather than being given free bags of food from the Food Bank with no choice about content (though we amend bags for gluten free, halal and diabetic requirements). The Pantry scheme is doing well at St. John's with up to thirty people coming each Monday. Another such Pantry has been opened at Tyseley warehouse on a Thursday, early days yet.

Sadly, the Resource Centre at the **Narthex** has closed down after many years. A HUGE THANK YOU for all the bedding, clothing, household goods etc. which you have donated, especially after pewslip appeals. It has been quite amazing what people have found in the cupboards or even bought new. There has been a wonderful network of folks helping, either directly or through neighbours, offspring or workmates. Still, it will be good to reclaim our front room and garage ...

The appeal for foods to replace the school Breakfast Clubs which close down during the summer holidays was highly successful. The parishioners of Shirley and St. Patrick's donated so generously. Each Breakfast Bag given to families with young children to augment their usual food parcels contained extra cereal, UHT milk, long life fruit juice, tins of soup, vegetables, tomatoes, jam, tea bags, pasta, biscuits. Fantastic!

Sadly, the number of people coming to St. John's Food Bank where David and I help hit its highest ever early in August. The tiny kitchen area (where cups of tea/coffee, toast and jam are made and offered) was a whirl of activity. Extra chairs were brought out for people waiting to be seen. We offered toys and colouring books to the children to help pass the holiday times. I am full of admiration for the volunteers who work face to face with the applicants – some have very complicated histories and yet are always dealt with patiently and politely.



Inevitably we have had to use some of the regular stock to make up extra bags this summer; so please do continue to help. **“Every tin counts”** has been our mantra for fifteen years; it's still very true today!

**GROWBABY** closed down for the summer and took the opportunity to reorganise. It hopes to reopen in September, concentrating on clothing for babies and children, birth to five years old.

**ADAVU:** I write that we are reclaiming our front room. HOWEVER, we shall still be collecting toiletries for the poor women rescued from slavery and trafficking. Shower gel and shampoo are the two most urgent items.

Thank you all for your tremendous support over the many years we have been appealing/scrounging.

*Elizabeth Paice*



## COULD YOU EAT LESS MEAT?

There are many reasons why we are asked to eat less meat, one of them being that, for every pound of beef that we buy, ten pounds of plant material has been fed to the cow. That plant material could, instead, be used to feed the earth's starving millions. Added to the cost of feeding the animals must be transport costs, packaging costs, etc, etc, etc. The climate impact of producing meat is roughly the equivalent of all the driving and flying of cars, lorries and planes in the world.

The production of beef increases year by year and forest trees are cut down and burned to make way for more cattle to be raised; this burning increases the amount of carbon in the atmosphere.

The most eco-friendly meats to eat are poultry, then pork then lamb and beef. However, imported meat travels much further than home produced meat, which increases its carbon footprint. Animals raised locally on grass seem to be the best option but will often be more expensive. A study from Bangor University found that Welsh sheep and beef farms using non-intensive methods have among the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of comparable systems globally.

We could help the situation by reducing the amount of meat that we buy; any small adjustments will make a big difference ...

*Shared by Chris Terry on behalf of the Parish Eco Group*

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**Contact Jason on 07789761412**



## **SHIRLEY GARDENING SOCIETY**

Our next season starts on **Monday 9th September**  
at 7.30pm in Church House

We welcome Mike Hinton who will give a talk on  
Managing Birmingham's Urban Environment

On October 14th the talk will be Daffodils – an overview of  
the Daffodil World

On November 11th the presentation is on Christmas Floral Arrangements.

Visitors are welcome for a fee of £5, full membership for the season £15.

For further information please ring 0121 705 4530. Why not come and join us?

## **A SPECIAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION – WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER at 3pm**

In June there was a specially arranged service of Holy Communion held in St James Church, principally for those who are normally only able to receive Communion at home. It was an opportunity to gather for worship and share in conversation and refreshments for those who struggle to get out. As you can read below, this was greatly appreciated by those who attended.

Therefore, we will be holding another of these services at 3pm on **Wednesday 11th September**. This time we would like to extend the invitation to anyone else from the congregation who would like to come. It may be that you wish to catch up with someone who you used to see regularly in Church; indeed, several of our 'home Communion' people did say that, along with being back in the Church building they loved and missed, how nice it would be to see people who they once worshipped alongside.

So, if you would like to come along, please do so. If you feel you might be able to contribute to the setting up of the service in some way, please contact me and we can discuss. Many thanks.

*Reverend Richard Haynes*

*Mary Hayes wrote . . .*

*I, along with other parishioners, attended a Holy Communion Service on the afternoon of June 19th at St James Church. This was held chiefly for those of us who cannot normally get out to attend church and who have Holy Communion at home. I think I can safely speak for everyone who attended to say how much we all enjoyed it. I heard comments made afterwards to support this.*

*I do hope it is repeated again as it was so lovely to get to church and participate in the service as well as meeting all the lovely people in attendance; the refreshments which followed were delicious too and well done to those who worked so hard to provide them. I want to thank all the ministers and church staff for making this possible and also for the willing volunteers for assisting with our transport and the refreshments. The tea was lovely and so were the cakes!*

*I normally have Communion at home, and I really look forward to it, but it was special that day being in church and meeting everyone. I know such a service is not possible every month but everyone I spoke to was of the same opinion. Well done to all who organised it and grateful thanks to all the ministers and helpers who were in attendance, I think most people came away happy. I know I did! Many thanks to Rich for the lovely drive to and from church and your help. I hope we meet again.*

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## FAREWELL TO BISHOP ANNE

I recently had the privilege to be invited to Bishop's Lodge to share the evening with Bishop Anne and her husband Steve, together with members of the Kings Norton, Moseley & Shirley Deanery, and guests. My guest was Margaret Foreshew and together we spent a very enjoyable evening.

The weather was just perfect, and we were warmly greeted by Bishop Anne and offered a refreshing glass of Pimms or a non-alcoholic drink. Naturally as we were not driving, we opted for the Pimms, and it didn't stop at one. We were shown into the vast and well-maintained garden which had differing 'rooms' and plenty of space to walk around and chat informally to Bishop Anne and Steve and to meet up with other clergy and acquaintances that we don't see so often.

Steve had prepared a quiz cum treasure hunt, and we had great fun working out the clues and searching the garden for the next one. There was a prize but unfortunately our team didn't win.

We were then called to a supper of great magnitude which we ate outside on neatly arranged tables and chairs. We were treated to the sound of drumming which was a surprise to everyone as it was coming from the grounds next door where they were celebrating an Asian Wedding. Of course, Bishop Anne claimed it was all pre-arranged!

After a delicious buffet of Tarragon Chicken, fresh Salmon, green salads, rice salads, quiches, celery and apple, breads and cheese and biscuits, we were replete: but then followed fresh strawberries and cake. What a feast.

Then came the highlight of the evening when Bishop Anne and Steve wandered amongst us. We were able to share some precious time with them individually so we could give thanks to Bishop Anne for her support, her gentle ministry and leadership as Bishop of Aston and Acting Bishop of Birmingham. We only wished we had got to know Steve sooner because we soon felt humbled as they thanked us for our support and the work we do in our own Parishes.

As one of the first women Bishops, she has been a great example to us all and will be missed by many.

We wish her well in her new role as Principal of the Queens Foundation, Birmingham and may God continue to bless and guide her.

There will be a Service of Farewell (ticket only) at Birmingham Cathedral on Sunday 15th September at 3.30pm. The service will also be live streamed.

Thank you, Bishop Anne, farewell and God be with you.



Aston University has recently awarded the Rt Revd Anne Hollinghurst, Bishop of Aston, an honorary doctorate.

Bishop Anne was recognised for her significant contribution to the promotion of positive intercultural and interfaith relations, diversity, inclusion and addressing issues of inequality.

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### PRAY WITH US

*Prayer*   
*changes things*

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

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Visit <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/your-future-solihull/fairtrade-fortnight> to find out more about the Fairtrade Trail in Solihull Town Centre

Come and join the fun at our

**Saturday 14th September  
in Church House**

*7pm for 7.30pm start*

Tickets £8 to include supper and a raffle ticket  
(please bring your own drinks)


# SKITTLES NIGHT



**It's time for  
a Macmillan  
Coffee  
Morning**


**and you're invited**

Let's do whatever it takes  
to support people living with cancer.



**Tuesday 24th September  
at the Welcome Cafe**

10am - 11.30am in Church House



Donations for the cake sale and  
the raffle welcome



# HARVEST SUPPER & BARN DANCE

## Saturday 28th September

### 6.30pm in Church House



**Tickets £10 from the Parish Office  
(please bring your own drinks)**



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## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT!

If you awoke this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation you are ahead of twenty million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the world's population.

If you have money in the bank, bank notes in your wallet and spare change in your purse, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still married, and alive, you are very rare.

If you hold up your head, with a smile on your face, and are truly thankful, you are blessed, because the majority can, but most do not.

If you hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you can read this message you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read anything at all.

You are blessed in ways that you may never know.

Blessings on you!

*Shared by Chris Terry*

## COMING NEXT MONTH ...

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MORNING**



**Saturday 5th October  
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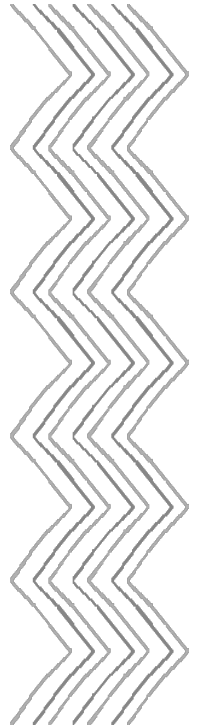
## WORDSEARCH

The Church remembers angels this month, with the feast day of Michael and All Angels on the 29th September. The Bible is full of angels, where they often had a key role in crucial events. It seems that Michael is their leader, an 'archangel'. In stained glass he's often seen with a sword, because in the Book of Revelation he leads the angelic host who fight and defeat Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, angels make numerous appearances. Just two examples: Gabriel was sent to Mary to announce the coming of her baby, Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. Another angel was sent to sit in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5)!

ALL	BABY	HOST	MICHAEL
ANGEL	CRUCIAL	JESUS	SATAN
ANGELIC	DEFEAT	KEY	STAINED
ANGELS	GABRIEL	LEADER	SWORD
APPEARANCES	GLASS	MARY	WAITING

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



Answers are  
on page 28

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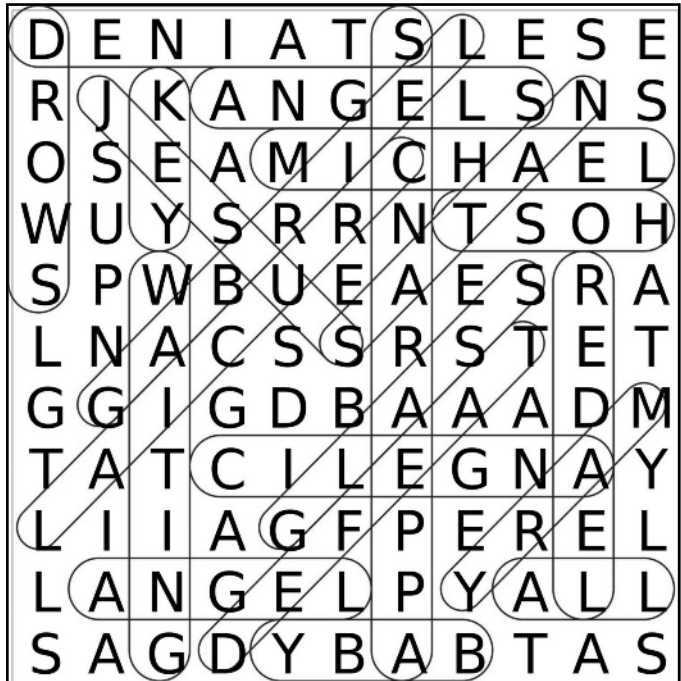
or 07966 275134 (Dan)

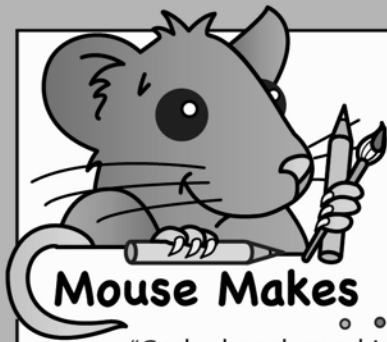


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## WORDSEARCH ANSWERS





# HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples  
\_\_\_\_\_ you, O God!  
May all the peoples praise you!  
The land yields its harvest;  
God, our God blesses us."

*Psalm 67:5-6 NIV*

## Mouse Makes

"God ... has shown kindness by  
giving you rain from heaven  
and crops in their seasons.  
He provides you with  
plenty of \_\_\_\_\_. He fills  
your hearts with joy."

*Acts 14:16-17 NIV*

"Let us fear and respect  
the Lord our God.  
He gives us autumn and  
spring \_\_\_\_\_  
at the right time.  
He makes sure that we  
have the harvest at  
just the right time."

*Jeremiah 5:24 ERV*

"Honour the Lord with your wealth  
and the first part of your harvest."

*Proverbs 3:9 ERV*

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

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN  
NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE  
FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY  
BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!

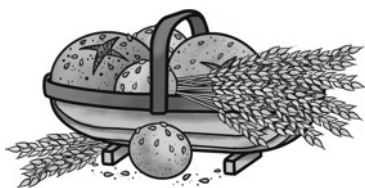
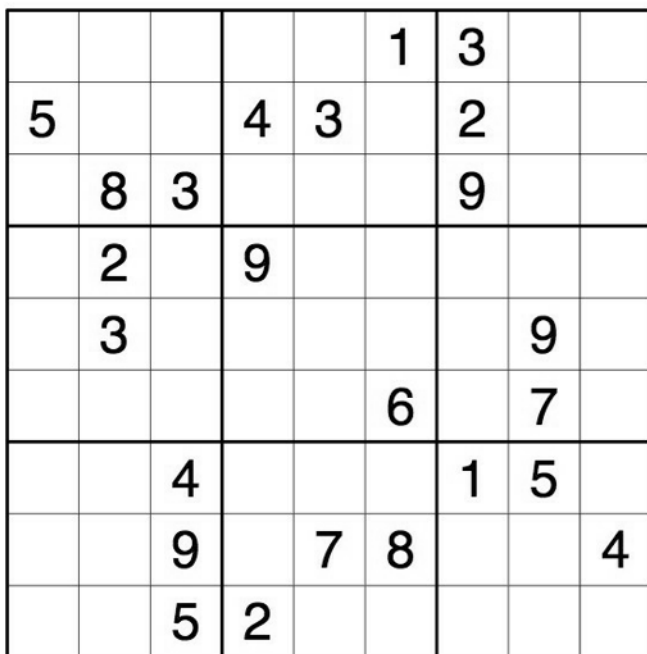
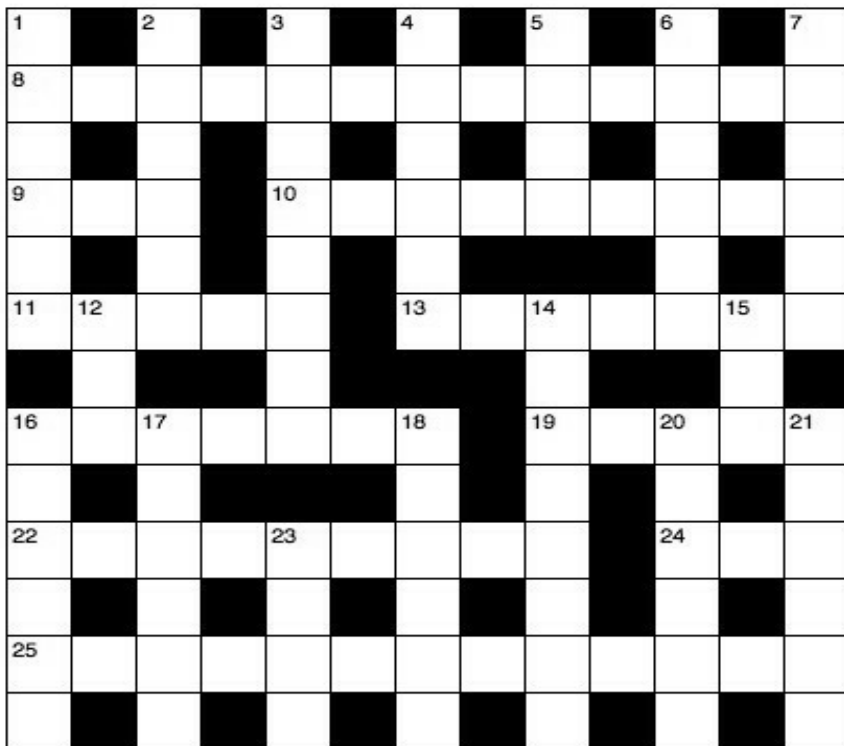
## THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

### Across

- 8** Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9** One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10** Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
- 11** 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13** Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16** 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
- 19** Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22** Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down** 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25** There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

### Down

- 1** Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2** See 24 Across
- 3** Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4** Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5** The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6** 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7** Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12** 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14** Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15** United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16** One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17** Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18** — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20** 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21** 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23** What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)



Answers are on page 33

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## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

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



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Or phone: **07753885320**



Pilates classes are £11 per class or £50 for five classes  
Mondays at 10am at Church House and Wednesdays at 9.30am at Shirley Institute  
Contact Miriam for more information or to book

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms

23rd June	James Lawlor
30th June	Albie Hand
7th July	Lincoln Williams
14th July	Erin Firkins Thea Firkins
21st July	Evelyn Davies Isla Howard
28th July	Sonny James

### Wedding

6th July	Nikki Meredith and Samuel Jack Moore
----------	--------------------------------------

### Funerals

14th June	Steve John Owen
29th July	Violet Thompson



# SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE *continued*

## READERS

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**Denise Smith**

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Tel: 07815 193892

## CHURCH WARDENS

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email: lindaalisonpitt@gmail.comGill 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.***



## PRAY WITH US



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



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Solihull

Friendship café

Last Monday of every month,  
11am - 12 noon

Meet like-minded people in the  
community for a chat over a hot drink  
and freshly baked treats.

Trusted to care.



To book please call **0121 667 7805**  
or email [jo.hopkins@careuk.com](mailto:jo.hopkins@careuk.com)