



# St George The Martyr Shirley

## Christ in the Community

William and Catherine Booth 10/8



**August 2024**

**50p**

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The Book Reading Group offers a monthly opportunity to look at faith-based writing and swap your thoughts with others. See Book Reading Group section of church website and page 10.

Contact: Regina 07825 428465

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Shirley**

**St George's Church Hall:  
Mondays at 7 p.m.**

Contact: Andrea  
07956 157275

**Climate Crisis**

What can I do?

- Learn the facts YES
- Speak up for change YES
- Work with others YES
- Reduce my own carbon footprint YES
- Resign myself to the worst NO

# Services at St. George's Church

**Sundays 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist. Most Wednesdays 11 30 a.m. Said Eucharist.** The Sunday Eucharist will also be available via live-streaming. See website or newsletter for access to the on-line option. There are shared worship opportunities throughout the week. Please see centre pages. for details. We aim to avoid any changes, but illness, etc, may change things..

**While we are without a Vicar, enquiries should be made to 020 8776 0185: Parish Administrator, and the Church Wardens will contact the appropriate person.**

## Vicar:

**Hon. Curate: The Reverend Hilary Fife** 19 Greenview Avenue, Shirley, Croydon CR0 7QW 07931 761320

**Reader: Mr Ray Wheeler** 88 Palace View, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8QN  
020 8777 5271

**Reader: Mrs Liz Bebington** 79 Shirley Way, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8PL  
020 8777 4840

**Website: [www.stgeorgeschurch.co.uk](http://www.stgeorgeschurch.co.uk)**

**Parish Office: [parish.office@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parish.office@hotmail.co.uk)**



**Founded by the Booths in 1865. the Salvation Army is famous for proclaiming Christ in music and in social action. "Doing Jesus!"**

## Update from the Church Wardens and Project Steering Group Lead

We are finally nearing the end of a year which started with a group of us writing the Parish Profile, which included highlighting the qualities which you felt you would like to see in our new incumbent. We were delighted to receive five applications, and to finally interview three candidates. The decision on whom to appoint was unanimous from the whole interview panel and we are very much looking forward to Rev. Jenny Walpole beginning her new life and ministry with us at St. George's. Jenny comes with a whole range of life skills and is keen to be involved in all aspects of our church life, including music, drama and working with our younger congregation. Jenny's induction service will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30pm and we would obviously love to see as many of you as possible in the congregation as we officially welcome her. More information about her induction service will be given nearer the time.

At long last, as you may also have heard, we are in a position to proceed with the 'North Wall' annexe build. We have planning permission granted by Croydon Council and in particular, we now have unequivocal faculty 'permission' to proceed from the Diocese. Final 'legals' to allow us to go out to tender for the work are complete and the actual tendering process is expected to get underway from the start of July. We hope to be able to get a first 'spade in the ground' during August. The estimated build time is 8-9 months - we have pre-booked the Bishop to officially open the annexe on Palm Sunday 2025. It is important for our historical record that the build is described and photographed, and I shall be asking Ray Wheeler and Philip Talmage respectively to undertake these tasks. Thanks to all for the support the PCC have had during this phase of the church's development.

Turning to the new church hall, we have developed early-stage plans for a single-storey build that will increase the available space to approximately twice the area of the current hall (minus the stage and kitchen). There will be a focus on use of the hall for the wider community as well as for the congregation. There will be a large, fully equipped kitchen suitable for cooking, as well as simply warming pre-cooked foods as we have been used to - this will help attract more 'hire-outs' to maintain financial self-sufficiency. There will be additional large and small meeting rooms that can be used independent of one another - again with a focus on hiring out for suitable local groups. We will be focused on storage for ourselves

and for groups such as the Scouts and Guides and other hall-user groups that we wish to have use the facility. There will be a 'Changing Places' toilet facility, an additional accessible toilet, and several more standard-type toilet facilities. There will be a mobile stage. . The build will be as 'Eco-friendly' as possible, with heating supplied by an air-source heat pump, with the building triple-glazed. The early plans have now been submitted for pre-planning advice to Croydon Council - following which there are bound to be changes required. The PSG will hold an open meeting for the congregation at this point.

To enable the new church hall (and to finalise the 'kit out' for the annexe), we do have to sell the land at the far end of the church site, alongside the Diocese who own the land on which the old vicarage (and its garden) sits. That overall land plot will ideally be used for house building. There are a number of hurdles to overcome and very recently, we have appointed ecclesiastical-focused lawyers to help us with the sale and in addition, sought advice from an independent land agent to make sure we are getting 'best value' from any sale. Furthermore, there are issues to sort concerning site access and provision for water, sewage, gas and electricity, etc. The PSG and PCC intend to keep the congregation informed at all key stages.

Finally, for this update, it may be the case that some demolition works start this year - the Diocese will most likely pull down the old vicarage and we will 'piggy-back' the Scout hut and associated small out-buildings. [The Scouts have been kept informed of plans and will temporarily re-locate until such time as we can truly welcome them back on-site.] What we are keen to maintain is the current hall until such time as the annexe is complete in order to decant as many of the current user-groups as possible in to the temporary accommodation that would be the combined annexe/church site. The PSG continues to work on such a plan and hopes all disruptions can be kept to a minimum.

The 'mission' is to create a long-lasting, vibrant, flexible, church and wider community hub that empowers all who use it. We are well underway - but there is still 'quite a bit to do'!

**Jan Payne and Heather & Steve Barker**  
**Church Wardens and Project Steering Group Lead**

## Windrush Day

### Reflection by The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon: a shortened version of a USPG article

Windrush Day is a day set aside, since 2018, to mark and celebrate the contributions of people of Caribbean origin or descent to the building up of the United Kingdom (physically, economically, institutionally, socially and culturally), particularly after World War Two. I came to England over fifty years ago, not knowing that in doing so I was joining the group of Caribbean 'arrivants' that today we call the Windrush generation. I did not arrive on June 22nd, on a boat at Tilbury docks, but as an unaccompanied minor at Heathrow airport, on a BOAC plane on a very cold day in March. I came as a child, but like all those who arrived before, I came with expectations of new opportunities and challenges.

However, the challenges that I and many others have faced since migration have caused quite a few people of the British Caribbean diaspora to disparage the term 'Windrush generation' and see little significance in the day itself, partly because they feel it locks them into a particular episode of history or ties them to an identity which does not encapsulate them, and into a story which is complex and problematic. This is because the story of the Windrush generation is also the story of the Windrush scandal, a story of hostility and rejection.

That sense of 'unbelonging' and the hostile environment of racism and rejection is felt by many of the original generation and their descendants. And this was no different for those who looked for welcome and hospitality from Christian brothers and sisters. The stories of people being turned away from church doors are well known.

Churches must be spaces of belonging for people of every nation and language who come to church to worship and serve God in mission and ministry. We are not there yet. Let us continue to strive to bring in that kingdom where uniqueness and unity are celebrated, and where that image of every nation, tribe, people and language before the throne is our aspirational and inspirational challenge and hope.

### **A full-blown revolution (building on Professor Martin Percy's Bible Reading Fellowship notes)**

*Jesus' kingdom of God project was a serious reset, if not a full-blown revolution, of economy and currency and how we think of value. Jesus was forever teasing his audiences with exaggerated and sometimes absurd economies of scale. He said the Good Shepherd would leave the flock to go after the stray sheep. Who would leave 99 sheep (worth a lot of money) to find just one? Wise and experienced shepherds would write off the missing one. He said God numbers the hairs on your head. (Apologies if you are bald.) Who, seriously, would count the number of hairs on your head?*

*Jesus' preaching, practice, miracles and ministry placed enormous value on the undervalued, devalued and seemingly valueless. At the same time, Jesus constantly undermines those who have misplaced values, those who overestimate their own value while undervaluing others, and those who prevent people from acquiring value. The currency of Jesus' kingdom of God project is centred on the flow of God's love, grace, mercy, kindness and tenderness.*

*Jesus embodies and teaches that this kingdom cannot be bankrupt and that its resources, assets, treasures and wealth are imperishable, limitless and free. So, Jesus opposes those who apply tariffs and restrictions on God's kingdom currency. Jesus chides those who seek to profit from it or restrict access to God's abundant funds of love and grace, which are free. Jesus says you cannot earn or deserve the gift, but you can do the will of God by sharing what you have been given.*

*My American colleague at an international conference was puzzled by the suggestion that you could set a limit to your wealth ambitions. He signed up to the alleged Rockefeller argument that healthy ambition in healthy economy meant always wanting more. "Growth" has been a prominent General Election theme: ever increasing national wealth and personal wealth. We expect to be "better off", especially when we aren't. Maybe a better way of looking at things, is "If a have enough oxygen to breathe, am I using my breath time to the best possible effect?"*

### **Churches Together in Shirley**

St John's  
St George's  
All Saints  
West Wickham  
and Shirley  
Baptist  
Shirley Methodist



Our Lady's  
Church of God  
Apostolic  
Shrublands Chris-  
tian Fellowship  
Longheath Baptist  
Church

#### **Monthly Prayer Meetings: on Zoom until September**

**Thursday August 1st**

**(Duration 7 30 p.m. to 8 p.m.)**

Zoom contacts as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83660642432>

**Meeting ID: 836 6064 2432**

#### **Tuesday September 3rd 7 30 p.m. Lady Chapel at St George's—with Zoom option if possible**

Prayer notes will be Emailed to member Churches when available. Ask [dunaigh2@btinternet.com](mailto:dunaigh2@btinternet.com) if you would like a copy. You can of course use the notes for private or family prayer whenever, and as often, as you want to.

#### **Churches Together in Shirley**

**Advent Quiet Day**

**Saturday December 7th: 9 45 a.m.—4 p.m.**

**St John's, Shirley**

**Leader: Gillian Fenner**

**Poetry, music, art, and reflective prayer, to look at Scripture and Sacred Texts, helping to prepare ourselves for Christmas.**

**No Charge.**

**Refreshments.**

**Please bring your own lunch.**

**Book a place with Brian McGinnis: 020 8654 6190 or [dunaigh2@btinternet.com](mailto:dunaigh2@btinternet.com)**



**Poetry Page****On Children: Kahlil Gibran 1883-1932 ("The Prophet")**

*And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, Speak to us of Children.*

*And he said:*

*Your children are not your children.*

*They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.*

*They come through you but not from you,*

*And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.*

*You may give them your love but not your thoughts,*

*For they have their own thoughts.*

*You may house their bodies but not their souls,*

*For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.*

*You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.*

*For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.*

*You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.*

*The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.*

*Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;*

*For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.*

**Some notes for you to note**

- ♥ **Deadline for the September magazine: August 18th.**
- ♥ **The Bible Reading Group** We are reading the **Book Ecclesiasticus**. Please note that this is **NOT** the same as **Ecclesiastes**, which is also a Bible book. Your Bible may not include **Ecclesiasticus**. I'm guessing that very few of you will be able to complain "I have read this book already!" If you want the relevant paperwork and/or the link to join us on Zoom on Monday evenings for 40 minutes, contact Brian McGinnis. Why not give it a go?
- **The Book Reading Group August choice: David Constantine poems "Lazarus to Christ" and "Christ to Lazarus"**. These poems explore one of the most intriguing stories (and relationships) in the New Testament.

*I hauled you out because I wanted to'*

*I never wept for anyone but you.*

Why was the man Lazarus not household head? Why this name, with its obvious associations? Why did Jesus not intervene while Lazarus was ill, but wait until he was dead? What was the price of dying twice? Why was there such a hostile reaction to death being reversed? How do we compare and contrast Lazarus and Jesus Himself? Later speculation has Lazarus becoming a bishop: You might have thought that the Early Church would "hang on" to Lazarus.

**Our new Vicar —Revd Jennifer Walpole**

Dear all, I am so excited to be joining the St George's community. With family links to the area of South East London this move feels like a spiritual home-coming. I completed my curacy in Canterbury, in a Benefice of three churches. I had the opportunity to serve as a Minor Canon at Canterbury Cathedral and I bring my love of music. Before ordination I was Project Manager for a Mentoring and Befriending programme run by the Chaplaincy at Wandsworth Prison. I am really looking forward to meeting you all and joining in with God's work here in Shirley. You are very much in my thoughts and prayers.

**With love and best wishes, Reverend Jenny**



## The Gaza Story

Christian Aid reports on the continuing story of two (plus) peoples competing for the same territory. The war is the context in which Christian Aid's local partners work. Inevitably, these partners are themselves directly affected: losing homes, losing family

members, being injured all killed themselves. Their homes as well as their offices have become rubble. The Palestinian Medical Relief Society has 30 teams helping over 360,000 individuals: providing mobile psychological and medical support, including on-going help for those discharged (maybe prematurely) from over-crowded hospitals.

The oddly named Culture and Free Thought Association is providing emergency aid and shelter for displaced people, including cash grants for families that have lost income stream, base and possessions. A memorable example of their work is art sessions for displaced children—empowered after months of emptiness by access to a pencil or crayon. The children are drawing some of their now damaged historic buildings. One of the supporting adults describes the changes in the children: “The first look is despair and misery. The second look is hope. The third look is love of life and childhood. Please....we deserve life, we deserve better.”

In war, whether old-style or new-style, the “innocent” have always suffered. In the days of sword-fighting, it wasn't just the sword holders who died - for example the sword holders burned the crops, and non-combatants starved to death. Christian Aid reports, as personal level examples of the big numbers story, the death of a voluntary sector lawyer (Abu Al-Nour) in a airstrike on her family home. Seven family members also died, including her two year old daughter. Another voluntary sector lawyer (Dana Yaghi) died in the same way - along with 40 others, including close relatives.

CA work is emergency work and re-building. Reconstruction will be a huge task. For more information, see [caid.ie/MiddleEastCrisis](http://caid.ie/MiddleEastCrisis).

## Maybe a smile

**Game rules:** During the local football game, the coach asked one of his young players: “Do you understand what cooperation is?” The little boy nodded yes. “Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?” The little boy nodded yes. “Okay,” the coach continued, “do you also understand that when the referee makes a decision, you don't argue or curse or threaten to attack him, right?” Again, the boy nodded vigorously. “Good,” said the coach. “Now go over there and explain all that to your mother.”

**Could have been worse:** A very long train with two engines was making its way across America. While crossing the Western mountains, one of the engines broke down. Slowly, the train chugged on. Farther along, the other engine broke down, and the train shuddered to a halt in the middle of nowhere. Not to be discouraged, the train driver announced: “Ladies and Gentlemen, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that both engines have failed, and we will be stuck here for a couple of days until the additional engines arrive. The good news is that we are not making this announcement on a plane.”

**Sounds off:** A minister was complaining about the noise of traffic in the town. He told the Town Council: “Sometimes when we have something on in church, all hell is let loose.”

**Grave warning:** *Road sign outside the gates of a cemetery:* Drive carefully. We don't mind waiting for you.

**True Story:** My father had a medical condition that meant regular visits to hospital. The local funeral director was a good family friend, and had been very helpful giving dad lifts to and from the hospital. On one occasion, a few hours before he was due to come home, the ward sister approached my father with a grin. “Your wife is on the phone,” she said. “She wants to know what time you would like the undertaker to collect you?”

### A word about personal alarms

A number of papers and other media have recently featured warnings about a potential clash between the personal alarms that some vulnerable people have and the shift to a digital system for our landline telephones. Basically, the new phone system depends on your electricity supply, and makes it vulnerable to power cuts. You need to let your phone (land-line) supplier know about your emergency alarm, so that you can be listed as needing special action. No harm in checking with your alarm provider too. If you are getting a new/first alarm, make sure you get a digital one.

### A Summer Quiz: Identify these butterflies



### That odd business of praying: Number 155 Forgiving and Forgiven

Not the first time these notes have tackled this topic, and probably not the last time. At the time of writing, the news has a cluster of messing up/ apologising/ making amends stories: the Windrush saga, the Boeing plane crashes, the faulty blood products, the PPE products debate, the mistakes made by Government, the unwise things done by individuals, the stupid things said by people who now want to be heard differently, violence inflicted or threatened, criminal records deserved or undeserved. Voters being interviewed about their choices, and saying "I can't forgive....." or "I am always going to remember...." If you lost your job, your home, your savings, your reputation, because of what others said or did, are you ever going to be able to "forgive and forget"? If you know you caused the damage, are you ever going to be able to forget....and to forgive yourself? This can be big time newspaper headline stuff, or very personal stuff: a close relationship where the trust has gone.

The Lord's Prayer message/ stumbling block of "**Forgive so that you can be forgiven**" is a reminder that we all sin and get sinned against - and not because people who say the prayer are obsessively pre-occupied with a check list of 365+ do's and don'ts. Obsessive Compulsive Disorder is real and nasty, but you don't need OCD to push you into the sin/forgive cycle.

The Church is not always good at clarifying the issues: confession and forgiveness in the course of every service, then maybe a reminder of the possibility of personal confession, then the far from re-assuring reminder of the Final Judgement when all sins (apparently including the forgiven ones) will be revealed!

I suggest that the Christian basics are: (1) God loves us, individually and collectively, and wants the best for us. If "Hell" is separation from God, God wants Hell to be empty. (2) We are not going to Forget, but we don't need to be dragged down by hatred of someone else or of ourselves. When we are sinned against, we may never want to hug the sinner but we can wish them well (and better!). (3) The rob a bank and build a church approach is not healthy, but the make amends if possible and at least try to do more good than harm approach is healthy. (4) REDEMPTION is very hard to explain; but grab hold of The God of Love is the God of Hope

**An invitation: Andy Bebington**

Several members of St George's live in the Spring Park Residents Association (SPRA) area. Many of these are SPRA members and as such benefit from a variety of the usual aspects of an RA - liaison with Council Officers and Members (see below); liaison with local Police; liaison with the Greater London Assembly and especially Transport for London (see below); a monthly magazine (of which more - a lot more - later) and receiving alerts as to what has been added to our website, where time is of the essence. A number of former members of SPRA, having moved away from the area, but wanting to stay in touch with the community in which they lived for so many years, have asked to receive SPAN (the magazine I mentioned) and have been very happy to pay £6 a year (a year!! For 12 issues!!) to have it hand-delivered.

Although SPRA is concerned - obviously - with its own area, there is necessarily a Shirley-wide element to some of our activities - Shirley Library being a recent example. We try to relate to the Council, TfL, the Police etc. in a reasonable, friendly and rational way, trying to be a body which the Council (for example) "can do business with. We think that we are more likely to be listened to and engaged with, than "shouty" bodies. Monks Orchard Residents Association covers Shirley North in terms of collective action on key issues; but there is currently no MORA magazine. SPRA and MORA work closely together on Council planning issues and other topics.

Given the number of people hearing about SPAN and wishing to read it, we recently established "Associate Membership" giving those outside the SPRA area the same benefits as full members (other than the right to vote at General Meetings - I wonder how many potential Associate Members are gutted at their inability to vote at General Meetings?). The one that speaks most to potential Associate Members is the magazine. At 64 pages (A5, glossy, maximum 28 pages of adverts) SPAN has at least 36 pages for a mixture of articles on local events, local history, recent developments (as well as Council issues, some of which have wider implications, like recent consideration of 20m 5G phone masts or school safety zones), the expansion plans for The Addington Golf Club, and the Council's road safety initiatives. There's a "what's on" item, an index of local clubs, societies and regular activities and an index of advertisers, a quiz, a "peg-board" - items for sale by members - and occasional advice on IT security, other scams, gardening tips - a wonderful mix in what has been described (by the professional who put it together for us and who have wide experience of other similar magazines) as one of the best they've seen.

A mix of back numbers will be in the back of the church for your perusal. If you want to take one or two away to read, please do but please bring them back for others to read. And if you do decide that the magazine alone is worth £6 a year, please let Andy or Liz Bebington know and we can take it from there.

**CHURCH DIARY FOR AUGUST 2024**

Key

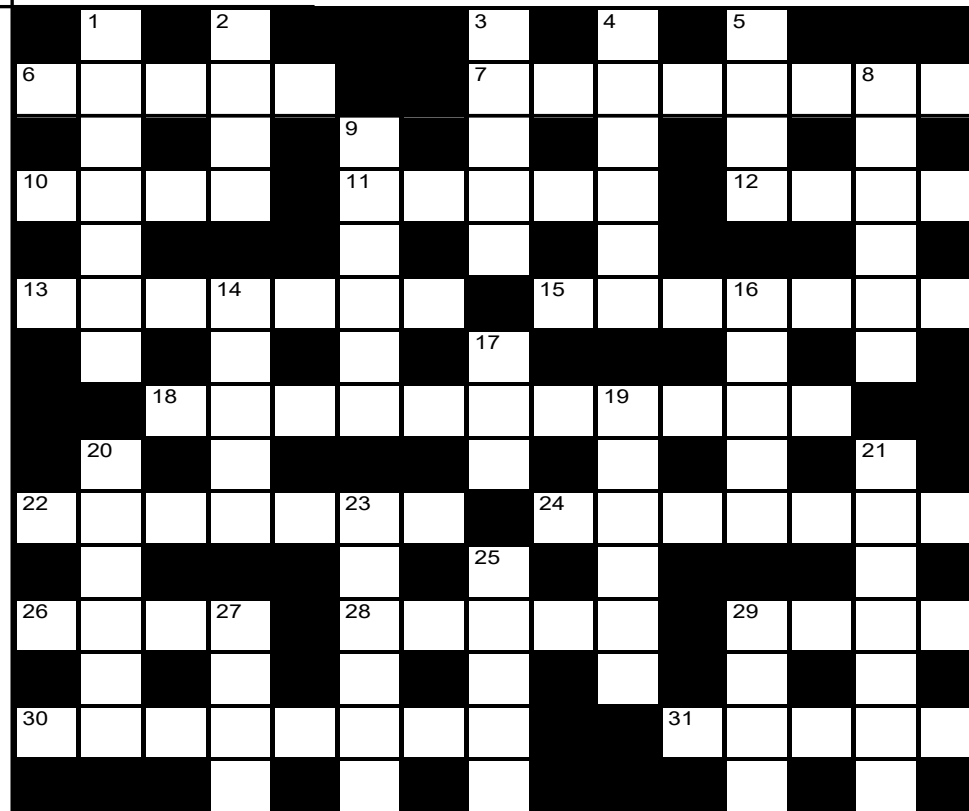
▼ Morning Prayer:

Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.00am Zoom only

Sun 4 Aug TRINITY 10	▼ Mon 5 Aug	▼ Tue 6 Aug	▼
10.00 Live All-Age Sung Eucharist lead by Rev. Carol Coslett	10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 11 Aug TRINITY 11	▼ Mon 12 Aug	▼ Tue 13 Aug	▼
10.00 All-Age Live Sung Eucharist lead by Rev. David Frost with Holy Baptism 12.00 Holy Baptism	10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 18 Aug TRINITY 12	▼ Mon 19 Aug	▼ Tue 20 Aug	▼
10.00 Live Sung Eucharist lead by AD Greg Prior	10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		
Sun 25 Aug TRINITY 13	▼ Mon 26 Aug	▼ Tue 27 Aug	▼
10.00 Live Sung Eucharist lead by Rev. Hilary Fife	LATE SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY		11.30am Chapel



	▼ Thurs 1 Aug	▼ Fri 2 Aug	Sat 3 Aug 10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
▼ Wed 7 Aug	▼ Thurs 8 Aug	▼ Fri 9 Aug	Sat 10 Aug 10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
n Eucharist - Lady			10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
▼ Wed 14 Aug	▼ Thurs 15 Aug	▼ Fri 16 Aug	Sat 17 Aug 10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
n Eucharist - Lady			10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
▼ Wed 21 Aug	▼ Thurs 22 Aug	▼ Fri 23 Aug	Sat 24 Aug
▼ Wed 28 Aug	▼ Thurs 29 Aug	▼ Fri 30 Aug	Sat 31 Aug 10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
n Eucharist - Lady			10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
<p><b>Dates for your Diary:</b>                  Murder Mystery Evening: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September                  Induction of Rev. Jennifer Walpole: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - 7.30pm                  Churches Together Advent Quiet Day: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December - St. John's Tamberlin Room</p>			



**Across**

- 1 Solon 175
- 6 Garment worn in Madagascar frequently (5)
- 7 Even press can make a type of 31 (8)
- 10 Could be behind 31 (4)
- 11 Maybe no bet for 31 (1-4)
- 12 Flog facial hair (4)
- 13 The deafest, when served up, may be filled (7)
- 15 Cut above team (7)
- 18 Confused old testament superhero becomes one of 31 (11)

- 22 Roil about in pride for one in the butcher's (7)
  - 24 Small sea creatures (7)
  - 26 Drop when he leaves decapitation (4)
  - 28 Holy man rumoured to be a cheat (5)
  - 29 Naughty curve (4)
  - 30 Could be a one-stop measure (8)
  - 31 Picked up post and cut (5)
- Down**
- 1 Defendant may be condemned with loss of resistance (7)
  - 2 Net not fully lifted (4)
  - 3 Back hosting bagels in progress (5)

- 4 Look nasty smell in summer house (6)
- 5 Bottle sounds bad (4)
- 8 Cooperative legal move (6)
- 9 Still in a great restaurant (2,4)
- 14 Ruin when party leader is buried in earth (5)
- 16 Starters of some undercooked salmon houses interesting food (5)
- 17 In London listen out for a rescue vessel (3)
- 19 for everyone else he enters some sort (6)
- 20 Bone organ for sort of 31 (6)
- 21 Strange place is different (7)
- 23 Inundation occurs when popular animal returns (6)
- 25 Internet leader is stretching out (5)
- 27 Head of state replaces Charlie in avoiding move at nightfall (4)
- 29 Bet on scaling mountain (4)

Thanks to Solon for puzzles  
For questions or help, contact Solon at Solon1across@gmail.com

**Answers to July puzzles:- Cross-word: Across: 1** Outset, **5** Full-page, **9** Vagrancy, **10** Nestle, **11** Plunge, **12** Variable, **14** Ex-serviceman, **18** Accidentally, **22** Dust bowl, **25** B movie, **26** Bikini, **27** Corporal, **28** Cyclamen, **29** Layman. **Down: 2** Unable, **3** Serengeti, **4** Tennessee, **5** Flyover, **6** Liner, **7** Pasta, **8** Gold leaf, **13** I.O.C., **15** Illiberal, **16** Etymology, **17** Scrutiny, **19** Dab, **20** Telecon, **21** Cicada, **23** Trial, **24** Opium.

**Sudoku:** 952341678/ 416782539/ 738965214/ 583419726/ 241678395/ 679253841/ 367894152/ 124536987/ 895127463

**Intelligence**

*Intelligence is like a river—the deeper it is, the less noise it makes.*

*It is incredible how much intelligence is used in this world to prove a lot of nonsense.*

*If library cards were used more, and credit cards less, it would tend to raise the level of intelligence.*

*An intelligent person is not afraid to ask for advice...or to question advice.*

*It is good when intelligent thinking goes with intelligent acting.*

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

**Bible Bite** A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Mk 4:35-41, Mt 8:23-27, Lk 8:22-25

Jesus had spent the day teaching big crowds by Lake Galilee, and when evening came he told his disciples..



### Even the wind and the waves obey Him!

If you haven't done this before, you might like to look at the three short Gospel readings. You will see that Mark says there was more than one boat on the lake: the Jesus boat was part of a small convoy. All the commentaries will tell you that the geography of the Lake/Sea of Galilee meant a risk of sudden fierce storms. Fishing here may have been a god way of earning a living, but it was a very risky way of earning a living. It was also hard work: the pictures might suggest sitting in and getting blown. Crossing the Lake involved hard rowing.

So, the learning points: If this were simply a Jesus is in charge story, they would all have got into the boat(s), and, with no effort and in no time, all found themselves on the other side. Jesus would not have been so tired that he could sleep through a gale. Jesus the man was exhausted: preaching and healing took it out of him. The speculative reader will wonder what would have happened had his disciples not woken him up.

The disciples were astonished when Jesus stopped the storm. So, what had they expected when they woke him up and demanded that he save them? It is presumably the leader thing: I don't know what this person can do; but this person has resources that I don't have. Looking ahead a bit, you can see why, as the net closed on Jesus, the disciples were anxious to believe that Jesus had an escape plan.

The hymn "For those in peril on the sea" says it all in terms of the Lake of Galilee rescue being seen as the source of hope of divine intervention on behalf of all passengers and crew at risk of winds and waves (or rocks or human enemies). We are right to pray for protection, especially in sea-gong communities where sea danger is never far away. History and current experience and the famous wrecks make it very clear that the sea is not always made safe by praying over it. As with all "Keep them safe, Lord" prayers, we need to know that "taking home" may be the actual though not the desired outcome. Prayer is a partnership with God: not us taking over the determination of the outcome.

Final message: Row as if everything depended on you; Pray as if everything depended on God.

## SO CAN YOU PASS THE LIFE IN THE UK TEST?

**1) What was the last battle between Great Britain and France?**  
 a) Trafalgar  
 b) Waterloo  
 c) Hastings  
 d) Agincourt

**2) Which flower is associated with Wales?**  
 a) Daffodil  
 b) Rose  
 c) Shamrock  
 d) Thistle

**3) During the reign of Charles II parts of London were destroyed. What was the cause of the destruction?**  
 a) War  
 b) Flood  
 c) Fire  
 d) Earthquake

**4) How often are General Elections usually held in the UK?**  
 a) Every three years  
 b) Every four years  
 c) Every five years  
 d) Every ten years

**5) Scotland has its own banknotes which are valid everywhere in UK.**  
 a) True  
 b) False

**6) Great Britain refers only to England, Wales and Scotland.**  
 a) True  
 b) False

**7) Who was the tribal leader who fought the Romans?**  
 a) Cleopatra

b) Claudia  
 c) Boudicca  
 d) St Augustine

**8) Who was voted the greatest Briton of all time in 2002?**  
 a) Isaac Newton  
 b) Winston Churchill  
 c) Alexander Fleming  
 d) Mo Farah

**9) Which two houses form the UK Parliament?**  
 a) House of Lords  
 b) House of Members  
 c) House of Commons  
 d) House of Fraser

**10) When did women get the right to vote at the same age as men?**  
 a) 1918  
 b) 1928

c) 1938  
 d) 1948

**11) Who is the head of the Church of England?**  
 a) The Prime Minister  
 b) The Archbishop of Canterbury  
 c) The Pope  
 d) The Monarch

**12) What sort of event is the Grand National?**  
 a) Rugby  
 b) Golf  
 c) Horse racing  
 d) Tennis

**13) When is Christmas Day?**  
 a) December 24  
 b) December 25  
 c) December 26  
 d) December 27

**14) What type of literature are the Canterbury Tales?**  
 a) Poems  
 b) Novels  
 c) Jokes  
 d) Fables

**15) Who supported King Charles I during the Civil War?**  
 a) Roundheads  
 b) Suffragettes  
 c) Quakers  
 d) Cavaliers

**Answers:**  
 1b; 2c; 3c; 4c; 5a; 6a;  
 7c; 8b; 9a and c; 10b;  
 11d; 12c; 13b; 14a; 15d

Apparently rather a lot of Brits failed to get the 75% correct answers that would-be immigrants are expected to get. I have no evidence to support my belief, but I'm guessing that most Brits who emigrate to Europe or elsewhere would fail dismally a corresponding test on their chosen country. I'm also willing to assert that someone who got all these answers wrong could still be a good British citizen!

If you had to draw up a list of 15 facts about Britain that really matter, and which it would be good for anyone wanting to settle in Britain to learn, what would they be? Maybe something like:-

- The King is top person, but does not decide anything
- Laws are made by Parliament (The House of Commons has the last word)
- The law is interpreted by the Courts (Independent of Parliament)
- Your colour and religion do not affect your citizen rights and responsibilities
- Men and women have equal rights
- Children become fully adult at age 18
- The Law controls parents' rights and responsibilities towards their children
- Every adult citizen can vote (in secret) for their Member of Parliament
- Marriage (for man and woman, or same sex marriage) is free choice.
- You are free to practice your faith in your way, unless that damages other people.....



## Younger Readers Page: Being Yourself



When a big family comes together, there are going to be comments about someone being like (perhaps very like) someone else. When we have twins in church, everyone notices that they are like each other—two boys or two girls probably much more obviously alike than a boy and a girl. My mother knew twin sisters who tended to dress alike, and could confuse their respective boy friends as to which was which.

Parents and grandparents who are gifted in some way probably hope that their children and grandchildren will

share those gifts.... music, or art, or sport, or being good at maths. That does happen. In a house of musical people, you are likely to think that music is a good thing, and to want to be good at what the adults value. And you will get musical opportunities you wouldn't have got in another family. Whether or not you "inherit the music genes", there will be expectations, encouragement, opportunity, shared pleasure.

But, God made each of us different and individual; and God doesn't call us to be like other people. He calls us to be ourselves: our best selves. All the attempts over the centuries to turn people into numbers - thinking the same, doing the same, saying the same, being the same - are attempts to undo God's work. We do the same thing to ourselves if we want so much to be part of a group that we give up being ourselves. A good group is a group of individuals, not a group of groupies. This is true even where THE TEAM is very important. You don't win a football or netball tournament by being exactly the same as all the other team members. You win by pooling your differences.

When Jesus chose his first team, He chose men and women who were hugely different from each other; and challenged Peter, Mary, John, Martha, etc, each to be their own best.



### A vixen relaxing in a fox-friendly Shirley garden

This is a house and garden which is also cat-friendly. These two things ARE compatible. Maybe less so with dogs and cats. Those of us who feed a fox or foxes get to know their visitors and to be trusted by them. Communication, and indeed negotiation, take place. A visiting gardener, with no particular fox enthusiasms, said "If you make foxes welcome, you make rats (which are everywhere) less welcome!"



**Sunday Readings for July (Message Version):**  
Please note that readings may change

**Sunday 4 August: Trinity X**

**Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15:** I'm going to rain down bread from the skies.

**Psalms 78: 23-29:** They ate and had their fill.

**Ephesians 4: 1-16:** I want you to get out there and walk, better yet, run.

**John 6: 24-35:** But it's trouble ahead if you think you have it made, What you have is all you'll ever get.

**Sunday 11 August: Trinity XI**

**1 Kings 19: 4-6:** He ate the meal, and went back to sleep.

**Psalms 34: 1-8:** I live and breathe God.

**Ephesians 4: 25 - 5.2:** When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

**John 6: 35, 41-51:** Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life.

**Sunday 18 August: Trinity XII**

**Proverbs 9: 1-6:**

**Psalms 34: 9-14:** Worship opens doors to all His goodness.

**Ephesians 5: 15-20:** Climb out of your coffins.

**John 6: 51-58:** Whoever eats this Bread, will live always.

**Sunday 25 August: Trinity XIII**

**Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18:**

**Psalms 34: 15-end:** Is anyone crying for help? God is listening.

**Ephesians 6: 10-20:** God is strong, and He wants you strong.

**John 6: 56-69:** You have the words of real life, eternal life.

**Sunday 1 September: Trinity XIV**

**Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9:** God is with us, always ready to listen to us.

**Psalms 15:** Walk straight, act right, tell the truth.

**James 1: 17-end:** Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue.

**Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23:** It's what comes out of a person that pollutes.

**Please remember by name in your prayers the following people for whom prayers have been requested...**

Dan Pretty	David Lawn	Susan Wheeler	
Sonia	Sue Moore	Pam Purkiss	
Jean	Julie	Karen Dovey	
Margaret Ziolek	Brian	Alison Stiff	
Andy Hamilton	Christine Lutman	Mark Hare	
Ann Hobbs	Pauline Russell	Jean Wells	
	Dave Ashdown	Martin Easton	
Yvonne Sussex		Ken Pyewell	
Mike Wilkins	Livingston Dallas	Shirley Ashdown	
Yvonne Harris	Lindsay Morgan	Maureen Fenner	Hei-
di Alsop	Ellen Maden	Paul Oates	Bri-
an Jacobs	Bill Gibson	Heather Orton	
Garth Smith	Elizabeth Lovell	Gwen Paulwell	
Helen McMullan	Helen Aylward	Sheila Dennis	
Sarah-Jane Herbert	Louise Maurer	Rev Andy Dovey	

We also give thanks for those who have experienced healing, or felt strengthened to cope with ill health or disability. Knowing that others care goes with knowing that God cares.

**Please let the Staff Team know of any additions or deletions via [vicarstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:vicarstgeorge@gmail.com) or 020 8776 0185**

**If the person is able to consent, please get their consent before adding their name.**

### Life in all its rich variety



None of his training had prepared Gary for this.

We have all been there: dealing with eager anticipation or despair, or one following the other. Our own feelings or someone else's. "Get things in proportion!" doesn't crack it. And sometimes just buying another ice cream is not an easy option. The best response I have ever seen was "Here, have mine".



"How thoughtful, wearing something all the wedding guests could shelter under in case of rain."

This is another "finding the right words" challenge. As politicians have been finding out, the clever response is not necessarily the right response. You really need to know both the person and the circumstances before you say the temptingly obvious... Just in case of: "My sister bought it to wear, but she died yesterday, and I thought it would be a nice tribute to her if I wore it."

Proclaiming who you are or what you believe (or both) is a bit dodgy, because it challenges as well as informing. A very stolid and unremarkable young lady wore a T shirt with "I AM KINKY" in large print, and some of us thought "Really?" But we held our tongues. She was entitled. I have a plaque behind me that says: "Praise God, Seek God, Worship God, Trust God, Thank God". When it catches my eye, it makes me think. It may irritate some.



Wendy checked the message on her mobile.

### Organisations

#### St George's Table Tennis Club (in the Church Hall)

Tuesdays 8—10 p.m. Doubles Table Tennis. £3 per evening, including refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Ron 020 8656 9176, Ken 020 8654 3233.

#### Whist Drive (in the Church Hall)

Wednesdays 7.45p.m. Inquire in Hall Wednesday 7 - 7.45 p.m.

#### Medau (in the Church Hall)

Tuesdays 1.30-3.00p.m Mrs Gammon 01689 815646

**Shirley Neighbourhood Care Scheme** 020 8662 9599 info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

**Your Local Councillors and Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams** The dividing line between Shirley North and South Wards is roughly the Wickham Road, but some roads at the Croydon end on the south side of Wickham Road (St John's parish) are in Shirley North Ward

**Shirley South Ward - Councillors:** Jason Cummings (020 8651 2575) and Scott Roche (07783 152370) **Police Contact:** Phone 0208 721 2469 Email SNMailbox.ShirleySouthSNT@met.police.

**Shirley North Ward - Councillors:** Sue Bennett (0208 768 0561), Richard Chatterjee (07710 183564) and Mark Johnson (07716 092484). **Police Contact:** Email SNMailbox.ShirleyNorthSNT@met.police.uk Phone: 0208 721 2474.

**URGENT 999** (Other crime reports 101)

#### Makes you think

Others will have noticed this long ago, but it took the "King Charles III as new Patron of the Royal Horticultural Society" article in their July magazine to make me aware that the President of the Royal Horticultural Society is **Keith Weed**. What a powerful message to the "If I didn't plant it, it shouldn't be there" school of gardening. Think the positive "wild flowers", rather than the negative "weeds".

## Organisations

### St George's Church Hall Bookings -

Mrs Jan Payne 020 8776 0185

### Overseas Missions Committee

Mr Brian McGinnis, Ms Pauline Russell 020 8654 6190

### Georgettes

Contact Mrs Jan Payne 020 8776 0185

### Beavers (Scout Hut) Boys and Girls age 6 to 8 approx.

Wednesdays 5-6.15p.m Rachel Dominguez 07956 155909

### Cubs (Scout Hut) Boys and Girls age 8 to 10.5 approx.

Wednesdays 6.30-8.00p.m Mr Trevor Thairs 07843 752895

### Scouts (Scout Hut) Boys and Girls age 10.5 to 14.5 approx.

Thursdays 6 30 - 8 p.m. Mr Darren Hawken 07903 399185

### Rainbows (Church Hall) Girls age 5 to 7

Tuesdays 5 - 6p.m Mrs Ruth Clery 020 8651 4116  
07702 870030

### Brownies (Church Hall) Girls age 7 to 10

Tuesdays 6.15-7.30p.m Miss Sheila Fenner 020 8655 0023  
fenner240@btinternet.com

### Guides (in the Church Hall) Girls age 10 to 16

Fridays 6.00 -7 30p.m Mrs Ruth Clery 020 651 4116  
07702 870030

### Pop In (in the Church Hall)

Mondays 10.30-12noon Mr Ron Bright 07972 607823

### Little Dragons (in the Church) Toddlers 0-4

Mondays 9 30a.m. -11 30a.m. Regina 07825 428465

### Flowers

*All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.*

*A chrysanthemum by any other name would be easier to spell.*

*Flowers may not last, but gosh they give joy while they are there.  
Can we match them?*

## St. George's Church Directory

**Churchwardens:** Mrs Jan Payne 020 8776 0185  
Mrs Heather Barker 020 8777 9280

### Members of the PCC

Mr Stephen Barker, Mr Evan Russell, Mrs Marjorie Russell, Mr Alexander Baldwin-Smith, Mrs Jan Turner, Mrs Susan Wheeler, Mrs Katie Francis, Dr Toyin Magbagbeola, Mr Steve Westray, Mrs Liz Bebington

### Hon. Secretary PCC.

Mr Eric Baldwin-Smith

### Treasurer

Mr Alan Chitty

**Deanery Synod Representatives (also on PCC):** Mr Ray Wheeler Mrs Helen Aylward, Mrs Fay Westray

### Electoral Roll Officer

Mr. Owen Whalley 020 8655 1349

### Organist and Choir Mistress

Miss Sophie Clayton 07703554159

### Safeguarding Representatives

Mrs. Susan Wheeler. 020 8777 5271  
Dr Toyin Magbagbeola

### Church Flowers

Mrs. Marion Sheehan 020 8777 7308

### Environment (ECO) Group

Mrs Jan Turner 020 8654 6552

### Magazine Editor:

Mr. Brian McGinnis 31 Woodmere Avenue, Shirley CR0 7PG 020 8654 6190

### Accounts

Mrs. Janet Fitt 020 8777 7823

### Adverts

Janet Fitt or Brian McGinnis

### ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

#### Making friends with your Bible

The Monday Evening Bible Reading Group offers you Zoom joining in, or notes to support your own personal Bible reading. See Bible Reading Group section of church website and page 10.

**Shirley Neighbourhood Care**  
**St George's Church**  
**Elstan Way**  
**The Glade**  
**CR0 7PR**  
**020 8662 9599**  
**info@dhirley neighbourhood-care.co.uk**

**Weekday mornings 10 a.m.—12 30**

#### Phone Sockets/Broadband

25YRS BT Engineer.  
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#### Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Engineers

**R J RICHARDS**  
241 Long Lane,  
Croydon, CR0 7TF  
Telephone: 020 8654 0021/8048

#### Gifts to share?

if you feel that St George's is not doing something it should be doing, or that you have a gift to offer/ share that is nor being used by St George's, please do not keep your mouth shut!

#### Prayers on weekdays

Tuning into God doesn't require a minimum number of people: one to One is fine.! But if you want prayer Company, there are Zoom prayers at 9 a.m. Monday to Friday. All are welcome.

#### TV Repairs

Need a Repair, Installation or User Training, Then phone Peter your local TV Engineer on  
Telephone: 078855 09319

#### Look

Do you want to know a secret?  
Join Croydon All Year Bowls  
For FREE Taster call 020 8688 0659

*+ Following Christ + Serving Community*  
*+ Welcoming All +*



**St.**

#### **George the Martyr**

**Elstan Way, Shirley, Croydon. (off the Glade)**  
**parish.office@hotmail.co.uk**  
**www.stgeorgeschurch.co.uk**  
**(Charity Number: 1134140)**