



# St George The Martyr Shirley

## Christ in the Community

Vincent de Paul 27 September



**A Member of Churches Together in Shirley**

**September 2024**

**50p**

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All under 5's with their parents/ carers welcome

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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

**Slimming World  
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)**



**St Vincent de Paul  
(Celebrated on September 27th)**

Vincent de Paul 1581-1660, known as the Apostle to the Poor. A French priest appointed as chaplain to galley slaves, who pioneered service to poor and disadvantaged people generally. Recognised for his compassion, humility and generosity, he inspired men's and women's organisations which have continued the tradition of ministering to people "on the margins".

## A View from the Green...

August seems to have been a month of gatherings and welcoming. As I write this our neighbours are tidying up after a joyous family gathering yesterday. Last Sunday we welcomed both Joseph and Joshua into the Church family at their baptisms. An added bonus was that we were able to welcome back Revd David Frost to lead our worship that day. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with him and Carol and remember back to the years he served with us as our vicar. But we also need to look forward as, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, we will be welcoming Revd Jennifer Walpole as our new parish priest.



What form should that welcome take? There will of course be a special service of licensing led by our Bishop but what should we be doing going forward to make Jenny welcome? She may be the priest called by God to serve in this parish but she is also a human being so we need to care for her as we hope she will care for us and remember to ask if she's ok too! It'll be easy for us to remember her name but there are dozens of us around so it'll be good if we can introduce ourselves as we talk with her. A lot of people have worked very hard during the vacancy but Jenny's arrival is not the time for us to sigh with relief, put our feet up and let her get on with everything! Yes, you may notice that along with Liz and Ray our Reader's I'll be doing far less in Sunday services but that's because we need to give Jenny the chance to be our priest and celebrate and preach so she can know us and we her through worship. The rest of the 'work', the mission and ministry of our parish is teamwork and we're all part of the team.

Finally, if we are honest, we will all have expectations of our new priest. Jenny will be a blessing, she is God's choice for us, but she isn't superhuman!! She will take time to settle in. She might make a few mistakes (which of us haven't in a new demanding role?). It is our responsibility to manage our expectations. God calls each of us to welcome his servant and to commit ourselves to work with her as welcome his servant and to commit ourselves to work with her as together we seek to follow Him and share his love in this place.

*Hilary Fife*



### Right words and right attitude



Shirley reminded them they were going out there to praise the Lord, not to kick ass.

I confess I had to look up the meaning of the familiar term at the heart of this cartoon. The looking didn't help much. I found "kick ass" means "act in a forceful or aggressive manner", and "very exciting" and "truly impressive". A bit like the word "wicked", which means both "absolutely awful" and "absolutely terrific". Even the first part of the first definition raises issues: being aggressive and being forceful are not the same thing.

I'm not quite sure why, but I find myself thinking "Praise the Lord, and pass the ammunition", which is about being in touch with God, and getting on with life... And which also prompts a nod towards the Church Militant. Singing worship is not a safe Sunday option for people taking a break from real life to wave a handkerchief towards the Sunday God who doesn't surface for the rest of the week. It is summing up musically the God we praise for the rest of the week by who we are and what we do even more than by what we say. It is reinforcing our daily discipleship by expressing who God is and who we are in relationship to that God. It is, literally, tuning into God.

The saying that the person (including choir boys and choir girls) who sings prays twice isn't about the greater volume of our singing, but about the words and the music reinforcing each other. This includes the music giving colour to the black and white words, and also the reality that the sung words are memorable to a greater extent than the said words. You can leave the church with a hymn buzzing about in your head, and with the likelihood that the buzzing will come back during the week.

You might be able to sum up hymn value as: Sing it, See it, Do it. You will remember more hymns than you remember said prayers.. and it helps that we are encouraged (by the music) to sing hymns with feeling...whereas feelings tend not to surface in the said service, or even in our private prayers.

**Demonstrations**



According to my dictionary, the word “demonstrate” means *prove (beyond doubt), exhibit, describe, show feelings*. These are very different things. The professor instructing a group of MA physics students, a plumber guiding an apprentice, an older sister helping a younger sibling sew on a button, a wordless toddler screaming frustration, a child speaking up for a friend, a burglar helping his nephew do his first break in, a placard or paving stone wielding protestor, are all demonstrating.

A demonstration may be a well-informed attempt to get help others get things right, or a desperate protest about things being wrong (with no helpful suggestions), or a largely mindless display of destructive violence with no message and no logic. One of the major complications for those commenting on demonstrations and/or trying to respond appropriately to demonstrations, is that the same demonstration can involve each of these three elements—all these very different types of people. Normally, violence against persons or property puts a demonstration in the “bad thing” category. However, if the damaged person and property are e.g. the enthusiastic agent of an oppressive state and the building where the innocent are tortured by that agent....?

Where things become much clearer is where what is being demonstrated against is make-believe, and the victims of the demonstration are innocent victims. You can think of real examples of this situation. Try this made-up example: The suspect in a crime is alleged to be left-handed; so, after a round-up on social media, a mob starts attacking left-handed people and any business involving a left-handed person.... and also (left or right-handed) members of the emergency services who came to the help of the left-handed victims. Makes sense??

**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

**Monthly Prayer Meetings (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday)**

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

**Wednesday October 2nd 7 30 p.m. Shirley Methodist Church 7 30 p.m.**

**Thursday November 7th West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church 7 30 p.m.**

**Tuesday December 3rd 7 30 p.m.**

**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**

## Smile: A Poem by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,  
 you catch it like the flu.  
 When someone smiled at me today,  
 I started smiling too.  
 I passed around the corner,  
 and someone saw my grin.  
 When he smiled, I realized  
 I'd passed it on to him.  
 I thought about that smile,  
 then I realized its worth.  
 A single smile, just like mine  
 could travel round the earth.  
 So if you feel a smile begin,  
 don't leave it undetected.  
 Let's start an epidemic quick,  
 and get the world infected!

## Some notes for you to note

- ♥ **Deadline for the October magazine: Sunday September 22nd.**
- ♥ **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: September choice R S Thomas poem "Near and Far":** This is not an "obvious" poem: I'd love to know what you think it is about. "*I arise from sleep to find you have been all night growing.*"

**Martyn Payne: BRF Book of 100 Prayers**  
*We kneel before the mystery,  
 we bow beneath the glory,  
 we wait within the love,  
 we rest beside the presence,  
 we listen to the silence,  
 that we may receive in this moment,  
 more of the grace and the beauty  
 Of God in Christ  
 Amen*

## Church Gardening Days

Thank you to all volunteers. Your contribution will be even more valued if you can keep a small number of garden planning points in mind: 1) Most of the flower beds are under-planted with bulbs, so please no deep digging. Otherwise the earth will look great, but Spring will be without its usual attractions. 2) Some areas are deliberately left to what naturally grows there, which means they naturally look a little wild ("untidy"). 3) You can safely assume that ash and sycamore seedlings and brambles are not intended to be left in the flower beds. 4) Final siting of the log piles and compost heaps depends on building work, but please don't disturb them if you can avoid it: they are "home" to various creatures.



**Rev David Frost (Vicar at St George's 1994 - 2012) returned to the church again on August 11th to celebrate the Eucharist, preach, and baptise Joseph Barker: grandson to Heather Barker (Churchwarden) and Steve Barker (Chair of our PCC Project Steering Group)**

Left to right:- Emily Seeber (Godparent), Logan Seeber, Bernard Humphrey-Gaskin (Godparent), Maria Humphrey-Gaskin (Godparent), Rev David Frost, Edward Barker (Father), Joseph Barker (The Man!), Vicki Graystone (Mother), Marcus Barker (Big Brother), Heather Barker (Grandma), David Francis, Milly Barker (Aunty), Steve Barker (Grandad). All supporters, not just "spectators". In a Church of England Baptism, every member of the congregation also promises to support.....including prayer support.

## Maybe a smile

### Those Church Notices that didn't quite make it...

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the vicar's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.

The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.

Don't allow anxiety to kill you. Let the church help.

Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.

### Cucumber

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. "Sorry, mum," he confessed. "I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer."

### Not all

Dear Minister: I know that God loves everyone, but He has never met my sister.  
Love Peter (aged 7)

### Unseen

A small girl greeting her father on his return from a journey by air and learning that he had flown above the clouds, asked if he had seen God.

"Well, no," said her father, "you can't see God like that because He doesn't have a body."

"Oh," she said, with pity and disappointment, "only head and legs?"

### Bible sense

Being married to a woman who reads her Bible can have its drawbacks. When a man protested to his wife that wiping dishes was not a man's job, his wife replied simply: "2 Kings 21:13", and handed him a tea towel. Later he looked it up: 'And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.'

## New Christian Aid Material

### Personal perspectives on social and environmental justice from Black church leaders.

#### Revd Rosemarie Mallett Archdeacon of Croydon, Diocese of Southwark

My awareness of climate was sparked through studying, living and working in Senegal, Tanzania and Ethiopia early in my career, seeing first-hand the ways that the interests of corporations and global capitalism have exacerbated environmental damage and climate change, and undermined and threatened the livelihoods and lives of local people. In Senegal, tomatoes were abundant, the staple of every market and every meal, and then, because of a development deal, cheap Spanish tomatoes were brought in and were part of a process that caused deep damage to local livelihoods and the national economy.

The same issue was obvious in Tanzania, where the cashew nut industry was hindered by the tied aid deals made to the deficit of local farmers. In Ethiopia I witnessed the deforestation as trees were being cut down for charcoal. I come from a small, quite flat island in the Caribbean, reliant on tourism for economic development, and vulnerable not only to sea level changes but to differences in changes to fossil fuel driven travel.

The impact of climate change is not being borne equally or fairly between wealthy and poorer nations, and any focus on environmental change must also focus on climate justice. God's creation and created order is suffering, because of wilful neglect and over exploitation. My faith is lived through my activism to fight for justice and equity in the care and stewardship of creation.

Even as Christians pray for the heavenly paradise, we are called to bring that kingdom into being in the here and now. We are called to build God's kingdom, to care for creation, and to work to transform any unjust and exploitative structures that harm the earth and its people.

## That odd business of praying: Number 156 Pray in Expectation?

Yes, there are Bible passages which say that you need to pray in expectation that you will get what you pray for. But taking this literally would stifle a great deal of praying. With the Olympics in mind....You need to compete in expectation of winning, in the sense that if you compete in the firm expectation of coming last, maybe there is not a great deal of point in taking part. However, even if you are the favourite, you need to compete while knowing that you might not win. ( Poor outlook for the gambling industry, if the favourite always won!)

While the Bible perhaps emphasises the successful outcomes of praying in expectation of prayer being granted, that is not all that the Bible says. (1) Prayer in despair also features prominently as achieving the desired (but not looked for) results. (2) Some expectant prayers took centuries to "achieve results". (3) Paul, looking to be rid off whatever illness it was that impeded his ministry, did quite a lot of expectant praying for healing. The God response was a (potentially very disappointing) command to keep going despite the illness. (4) Even Jesus prayed on the basis that "This is what I want", "This is what I hope you (God the Father) want", but "If you want something else, that's OK with me". (5) While supremely confident faith in things turning out the way you want is great, one of the most powerful Bible quotes is "*I believe; help me with my unbelief*".

You don't need to be very old to have discovered that what you pray for, with as much faith as possible, does not always arrive in full, gift-wrapped as you wanted it. I don't want to make too much use of the "Thy Will be done" argument—because if, when you pray for someone to live pain-free, and they die painfully, I'm not by any means convinced that God's will was a painful death. However, and despite what some enthusiastic evangelists will tell you, I think it is right and proper, and realistic, to pray with absolute confidence that God will make use of your well-intentioned prayer.... But without absolute confidence that you are going to get what you (think you) want.

The elderly widow struggled a bit with electricity bills; but her outside light made an alley way just that bit safer (in terms of potential physical and potential human risks), so she kept the light on. That is one way of looking at prayer: We may not see the desired results; but we are doing the right thing.

### Answers to Summer (August) Quiz

The six butterflies were: Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), Peacock (*Inachis io*), Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*), Large White (*Pieris Brassicae*), Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*), and Painted Lady (*Cynthia cardui*) They have all been seen in the church garden.....and maybe in your garden?

You might like to see what their caterpillars look like:



Red Admiral caterpillar, Peacock caterpillar, Large Tortoiseshell caterpillar, Large White caterpillar, Brimstone caterpillar, Painted Lady caterpillar.

A stray thought: How would it be if human beings visibly passed through the "improbable" very different looking stages that butterflies pass through (egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, flying creature)? Or maybe you think they do?

## CHURCH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

### Key

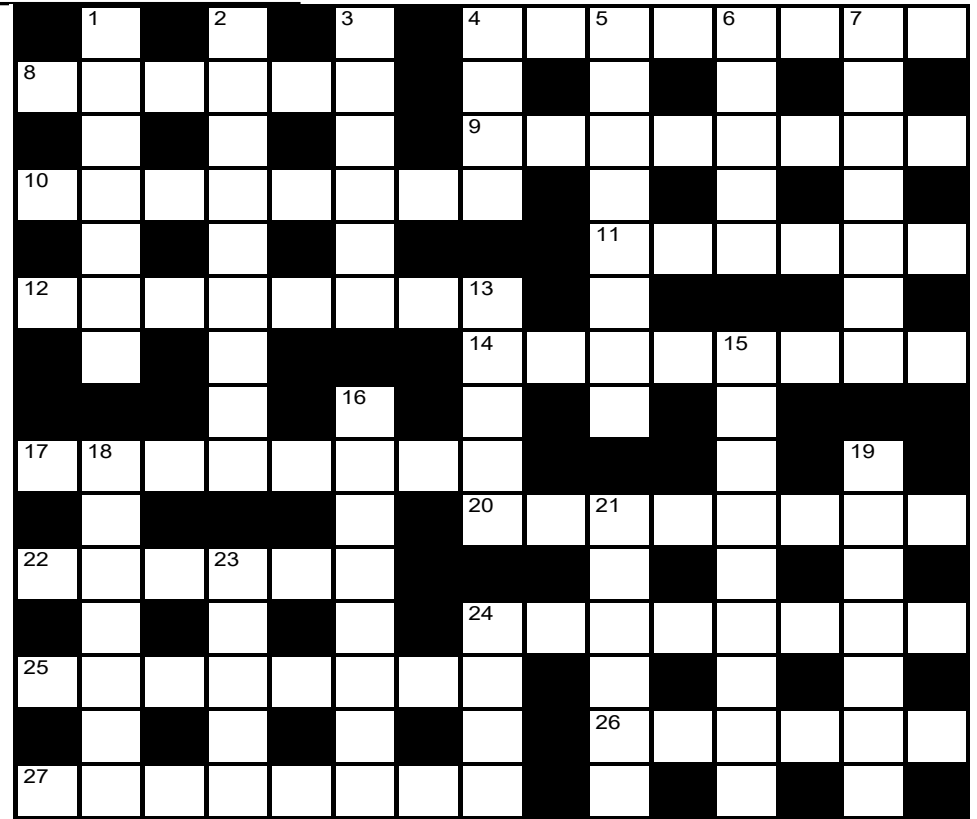
▼ Morning Prayer:

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

Sun 1 Sept CREATION 1	▼ Mon 2 Sept	▼ Tue 3 Sept	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist lead by Rev. Hilary Fife	10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 8 Sept CREATION 2	▼ Mon 9 Sept	▼ Tue 10 Sept	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist lead by Rev. Hilary Fife	9.30-11.30 am Little Dragons 10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 15 Sept CREATION 3: HARVEST	▼ Mon 16 Sept	▼ Tue 17 Sept	▼
10.00 All-Age Live Sung Eucharist & Church Parade lead by Rev. Hilary Fife	9.30-11.30 am Little Dragons 10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 22 Sept CREATION 4	▼ Mon 23 Sept	▼ Tue 24 Sept	▼
10.00 Live Sung Eucharist lead by Rev. Hilary Fife	9.30-11.30 am Little Dragons 10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 29 Sept TRINITY 18	▼ Mon 30 Sept		
10.00 Sung Eucharist lead by Rev. Hilary Fife	9.30-11.30 am Little Dragons 10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		



<p><b>Dates for your Diary:</b>                  Induction of Rev. Jennifer Walpole: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - 7.30pm                  'Christmas' Market: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November                  Churches Together Advent Quiet Day: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December - St. John's Tamberlin Room</p>			
Wed 4 Sept	Thurs 5 Sept	Fri 6 Sept	Sat 7 Sept
m Eucharist - Lady			10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
Wed 11 Sept	Thurs 12 Sept	Fri 13 Sept	Sat 14 Sept
m Eucharist - Lady			10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
Wed 18 Sept	Thurs 19 Sept	Fri 20 Sept	Sat 21 Sept
m Eucharist - Lady			
Wed 25 Sept	Thurs 26 Sept	Fri 27 Sept	28 Sept
m Eucharist - Lady			10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement Murder Mystery Evening



Solon 176

**Across**

- 4 Howard Hughes loses dash to have no finish (5-3)
- 8 Father and woman together find dish (6)
- 9 Eccentric lawyer touted to be obsolete (8)
- 10 Admire head picture (8)
- 11 Ely, for one, was turned up and down (6)
- 12 States that descaler works (8)
- 14 Charlie and Romeo leave unbelievable food (8)
- 17 Canons, reportedly, are influential types (3,5)

- 20 Eruditely lose rook manically for Christmas period (8)
- 22 Hendrix took reports evenly for newsmen (6)
- 24 Queen accepts no rubbish for comment (8)
- 25 I'm a frail poor witch's cat (8)
- 26 Cost of a horse (6)
- 27 Stan has surprisingly dark drinking vessels (8)

**Down**

- 1 Keir's cupboard? (7)
- 2 Insomnia in Washington? (9)
- 3 Move quickly into job (6)
- 4 Antipodean small jumpers (4)
- 5 Chaotic oriental student won't take exams (8)

- 6 Pull in for heaven's sake (5)
- 7 Look at organ (7)
- 13 Sibling, extremely shy could be a big girl's blouse (5)
- 15 Fake restriction left out (9)
- 16 Attendant has date that is right (8)
- 18 The state of Jones? (7)
- 19 Accidentally ignited for 22's work (7)
- 21 Arrive with gold carriage (6)
- 23 Fool could be a fast one! (5)
- 24 Weapons kept up ones sleeves

From "Today I Awake" by John

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

Bell and Graham Maule

"God never sleeps, but patterns the morning With slithers of gold or glory in grey."

"Christ is alive, and beckons his people To hope and to heal, resist and invite."

"The Spirit inspires all life which is changing From fearing to faith, from broken to blessed."



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

**Answers to August puzzles:- Crossword:** **Across:** 6 Scarf, 7 Flatiron, 10 Rump, 11 T-bone, 12 Lash, 13 Feasted, 15 Topside, 18 Porterhouse, 22 Sirloin, 24 Shrimps, 26 Bead, 28 Fakir, 29 Arch, 30 Teaspoon, 31 Steak. **Down:** 1 Accused, 2 Trap, 3 Afoot, 4 Gazebo, 5 Vial, 8 Onside, 9 At rest, 14 Spoil, 16 Sushi, 17 Ark, 19 Others, 20 Ribeye, 21 Special, 23 Inflow, 25 Eking, 27 Dusk, 29 Ante.

**Sudoku:** 579614238/ 462839751/ 318572694/ 134796582/ 985423176/ 627185943/ 251347869/ 793268415/ 846951327

"Today I Awake"

"Today I enjoy the Trinity round me, Above and beneath, before and behind; The maker, the Son, the Spirit together - They called me to life and call me their friend."

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-15

Jesus told a story to describe God's kingdom. A vineyard owner went to the marketplace at dawn to hire workers to pick his grapes.

**Panel 1:** "I'll pay you the normal wage for a day's work."

**Panel 2:** "He went out again at 9 o'clock ... and mid-day ... and 3 o'clock ..."

**Panel 3:** "and again with just 1 hour to go before sunset."

**Panel 4:** "I'll pay you a fair wage"

**Panel 5:** "At the end of the day.."

**Panel 6:** "They were given a whole day's wage.."

**Panel 7:** "and so were those who had worked all day."

**Panel 8:** "Pay the last workers first."

**Panel 9:** "You paid them the same and we worked all day!"

**Panel 10:** "I want to give those who were hired last the same as you got."

**Panel 11:** "My friend, you agreed to work for a day's wage"

**Panel 12:** "Or are you jealous because I'm good to others?"

**Panel 13:** "Jesus concluded..."

**Panel 14:** "So those who are now last will be first, and the first last."

## Not fair?

This bit of Matthew's Gospel makes more sense when it is read in the context of the question that precedes it. Crudely put (and Peter was quite good at putting things crudely), Peter had pointed out to Jesus that the first disciples had given up a lot to become disciples; and he asked Jesus what they were going to get out of it. "The entitlement thing!" James and John were on the same wave length when they (or their mother on their behalf) asked for the top jobs when the Kingdom came. As the Chosen People, some Jews tended to harp on the theme of entitlement more than the theme of responsibility. Some of the early Jewish Christians were not too keen on the notion that "late-comer" Gentile Christians had equal Christian status with them....and enjoyed this status without even the burden of picking up all the Jewish God rules.

Now, of course, we wouldn't dream of following the entitlement line.... Or would we? If we have been to the fore in our local church for decades, and newcomers start taking charge (and changing things), are we delighted, or a bit peeved? If we are cradle Christians, don't we (at heart if not out loud) don't we feel that maybe God owes us a bit more than God owes the "late age entrants"?

You may be broad-minded enough to say OK to the vineyard owner paying someone the same for a one hour day as the other worker gets for a ten hour day. After all, the daily wage at that time was about what a family needed to feed themselves for a day, so anything less would have been below subsistence level. But I'm willing to bet that you found the one hour workers getting paid BEFORE the ten hour workers uncomfortable. Jesus is really rubbing in the message about God justice not being the same as human justice!

One "technicality" might help. You could be forgiven for thinking that the late-hired workers were late-risers: people who couldn't be bothered joining the labour queue at the start of the day. But note that they themselves asserted that they had been there from the beginning, and nobody wanted them. They didn't, for whatever reason, look like the most promising workers. At grape harvest time, it was quite common to find that the amount to be picked (and maybe the way the weather was beginning to look) meant extra workers were needed.

Key message: Be humbly thankful; not self-righteously jealous.

## Putting a price on it



The cartoon is funny because most of those who look at it will put a baby in a different category from even something as valuable as a handbag. Every human life is of infinite value. At least in our country, we spend quite a lot time, effort, and money on keeping people alive - sometimes even when the person concerned is not wholly sold on wanting to stay alive. However, human valuing of human life is not an absolute in either human thinking and behaviour today or in human history.

In some countries at some times, the father was given the choice of keeping the child or disposing of it. In many countries at many times, some children and some adults were regarded as disposable. The abortion debate has many facets, but any acceptance of abortion implies acceptance that there are convincing reasons for destroying potential human life. You can't support any form of war without accepting that there are circumstances in which it is legitimate to take away human life. The death penalty is far less common in the world than it used to be, but it is still regarded by many people as a proper response to certain crimes. Even in rich and liberal countries, "infinite value" of human life does not mean that infinite cost is acceptable to maintain that life. At a more mundane and universal level, we are unwilling to accept the constraints on our behaviour that would dramatically reduce the risks of people being killed (e.g. on the roads).

The principle of human life being of even very great, let alone infinite, value implies that the quality of individual human lives ought to be high on the political agenda. Whereas, as we all sometimes recognise, a large part of the world's population does not live a good life - inadequate food, inadequate housing, inadequate health care, inadequate hope. People (of whatever age) need to know that they are valued, by how they are treated by the other valuable human beings. Even in rich countries, there are lots of folk who don't have that assurance.

## Younger Readers Page:

### Taking things as they come, or making things come?



You will hear people saying (happily or sadly) “It was meant to be”, or “It wasn’t meant to be”. Some people seem to be saying that everything is planned (by God or by “fate”), and that the individual really doesn’t have much choice. I find this very unconvincing.

Take a simple example: getting up in the morning. Let’s say you have the opportunity to go on a school outing with a very early start, and that your parents have said that they will get up early to help you IF YOU MAKE THE EFFORT. (You have been grumbling about the early start.) If you set your alarm and get up, parents will respond by getting up too and doing an early breakfast and giving you a lift to the school. If you “decide” that God or “fate” will get you up if God or fate wants you to get up, so you don’t set your alarm....you will miss the outing - not because of God or fate, but because you couldn’t be bothered.

Take another example. You would have liked to get a badge for baking. So you made some sort of effort, though not a really big effort, and you didn’t get your badge. You can then give up, and say you were never “meant to be” good at baking. Or, you can try harder next time....and get your baker badge.

Of course, it isn’t always that simple. You might have tried quite hard, and not succeeded. Other people might be better judges of what you are good at, and what will be best for you. Sometimes, sadly, you would be up to doing what you want to do, but you can’t persuade others to agree. Just keep in mind that there are Olympic winners who got to the podium despite injuries that seemed likely to write them off. There are university professors who were told that they would never secure a university place. There are successful politicians who spent years failing to get enough people to vote for them. There are happily married couples who had moved on from one of them saying No to the other’s proposal.

## Mission



My faithful (1933) dictionary says of “mission”: *act of sending, duty on which one is sent, preaching of the gospel*. One of those useless pieces of information I have treasured for about 72 years is the various parts of the Latin verb To Send (Mitto, Mittere, Misi, Missum). If you trace the word right back, it originally meant “Exchange”, and shifted to the more one-sided notion of giving someone else something. Today, a

Mission Statement spells out what an organisation is all about: a statement of main aims; and a Mission is a group of people sent somewhere to change things (in line with the wishes of the senders). To over-simplify, 19th Century Christian Overseas Mission was to make “them” more like “us”. That isn’t hugely different from how many of the early Jewish Christian missionaries saw things.

When St George’s encourages Mission, it has something rather different in mind. Even something of the original Exchange way of looking at things comes into it. Every missionary has something to learn from the person to whom they are being Sent with the Gospel. No missionary is so completely tuned into God that she or he has nothing more to learn about speaking as and living as a Christian. The good missionary is less teaching, than learning with, and indeed learning from.

The purpose of mission is not to make them like us, but to help them discover who they are and to be *their* best. And the emphasis is on them and us all being together US. No doubt the early white Western missionaries would have been a bit surprised if they had come back home on furlough and found someone from the place where they were missionising, missionising in their home town. I hope they would have been delighted once they got over the shock. In 2024, it is still true that in some parts of the world Jesus talk and Jesus living is very rare. In 2024, it is still true that in some parts of the world a local church where the annual church income is at about the level of our church’s weekly income needs our support. But 2024 Mission is very much about partnership, not just taking and giving.

**Sunday Readings for September (Message Version):**

Please note that readings may change

**Sunday 1 September: Trinity XIV**

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

**Psalm 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.

**Sunday 8 September: Trinity XV**

**Isaiah 35: 4-7a:** Blind eyes will be opened, Deaf ears unstopped.

**Psalm 146:** Put your hope in God, and know real blessing.

**James 2: 1-17:** Love others as you love yourself.

**Mark 7: 24-end:** He gives hearing to the deaf, speech to the speechless.

**Sunday 15 September: Trinity XVI: Harvest**

**Joel 2: 21-25:** Fear not, wild animals.

**1 Timothy 6: 6-10:** The rich simplicity of being yourself before God.

**Mark 6: 25-33:** They didn't even have time to eat.

**Sunday 22 September: Trinity XVII**

**Wisdom 1: 16 - 2: 1, 12-22:** They do not know the hidden things of God.

**Psalm 54:** God's right here, helping.

**James 3: 13 - 4:3, 7-8a:** Live well, live wisely, live humbly.

**Mark 9: 30-37:** Be the servant of all.

**Sunday 29 September: Michael and All Angels**

**Genesis 28: 10-17:** God is in this place.

**Psalm 103: 19-end:** Bless God, everyone and everything made by God.

**Revelation 12: 7-12:** They weren't in love with themselves.

**John 1: 47-end:** You haven't see anything yet.

**Sunday 6 October: Trinity XIX**

**Genesis 2: 18-24:** It's not good for the man to be alone.

**Psalm 8:** Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you.

**Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12:** God spoke to us directly through his Son.

**Mark 10: 2-16:** Unless you accept God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child...

**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	Steven Beresford
Margaret Ziolek	Brian	Alison Stiff
Andy Hamilton	Christine Lutman	Mark Hare
Ann Hobbs	Pauline Russell	Jean Wells
Dave Ashdown	Dawn Barrett	
Yvonne Sussex	Viv Baracliffe	Jill Hollamby
Mike Wilkins	Livingston Dallas	Shirley Ashdown
Yvonne Harris	Lindsay Morgan	Maureen Fenner
Heidi Alsop	Ellen Maden	Paul Oates
Brian 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 [tionsvicarstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:tionsvicarstgeorge@gmail.com) or 020 8776 0185**

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

### An ecumenical opportunity/invitation

*“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy, 3:16,17)*  
*From Psalm 119 ... “O teach me true understanding and knowledge” (v. 66);*  
*“Give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments” (v. 73).*

Sermons are good – they can be very good – but are they enough? Did our understanding of our faith come to a halt after Confirmation or the equivalent? If “Yes!!”, does this bother you? Would you welcome a convivial way of deepening and broadening your knowledge and understanding of what it means to be a Christian today? In times past locally, there have been inter-church house groups/ Bible study groups ( 6 -10 members), aimed at enabling us all to learn more, in a guided way. Following a short booklet covering (say) four weeks of Advent, groups examine and discuss what relevance to today there might be in (say) the Parable of the Prodigal Son, or The Council of Trent, or the various stories of deaths in the Bible (Goliath, Lazarus, Judas Iscariot and of course Jesus himself), or why and how the Old Testament is a formative element in the Christian faith.

Yes, it may sound daunting – but it isn't. For each week, the booklet might have a suggested Bible reading, a few paragraphs of commentary and several questions. It is these questions which the group leader would focus on with the members, drawing out insights and experiences which help others to see more clearly the important issues of the day in the light of their (we hope now expanded) Christian faith. To have groups at all, we clearly need hosts who can seat 6-10 people more or less comfortably, and leaders who are prepared to ensure that a balanced conversation is held, with the discussion including everyone and not dominated by one or two people.

If you think you could do either (or both) of these, please let Andy Bebington know via 020 8777 4849 or, preferably, [andy.bebington@gmail.com](mailto:andy.bebington@gmail.com), giving your name and contact details and an indication of which afternoons or evenings you could be available. If you think you might like to join a group as a member, (subject to date, and time of day), please also let him know your “availability” so that the numbers of groups can be arranged. We can think about transport help. Maybe a Zoom Group option?

## 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)

### Money

*People are funny. They spend money they don't have to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't like.*

*Another reason you can't take it with you - it goes before you do.*

*Many seem more concerned about making money than earning it.*

## 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

## Money

*Money can do more to you than it does for you.*

*Money often unmakes the man who makes it.*

*Even bargains cost money.*

## 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@dhirleyneighbourhood-care.co.uk

**Weekday mornings 10 a.m.—12 30**

### Phone Sockets/Broadband

25YRS BT Engineer.  
 Why pay service provider prices for internal faults?  
 • New phone/ Broadband extensions • Fault finding repairs/ Improve broadband speeds • Cat 5 wiring • Internal/ external re-routing/ tidying of cables prior to double glazing  
 FULLY INSURED  
 G. NUGENT 07845 70590

### 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 not 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.

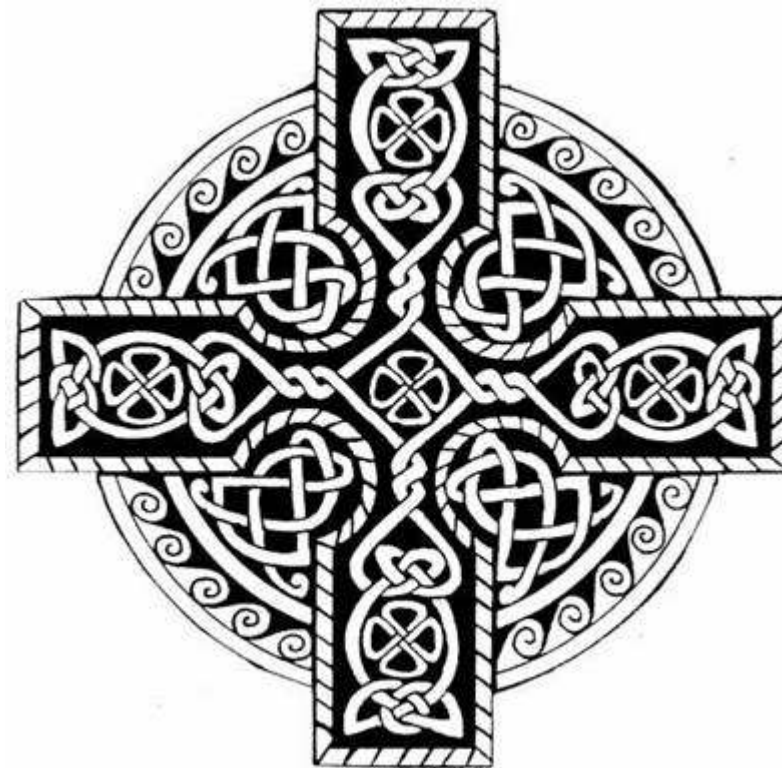
### TV Repairs

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)