



# St George The Martyr Shirley

## Christ in the Community

Henry Martyn 19th October



**A Member of Churches Together in Shirley**

**October 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

**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..

**Vicar: The Reverend Jennifer Walpole** 2 The Grove, West Wickham BR4 9JS  
**From 4 October** Contact details in due course

**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)**

## Henry Martyn (18 February 1781 – 16 October 1812)

was an Anglican priest and missionary to the peoples of India and Persia. He became a chaplain for the British East India Company. Martyn arrived in India in April 1806. He translated the whole of the New Testament into Urdu, Persian and Judaeo-Persic. He also translated the Psalms into Persian and the Book of Common Prayer into Urdu. From India, he set out for Bushire, Shiraz, Isfahan, and Tabriz. Martyn caught fever, and, though the plague was raging at Tokat, he was forced to stop there, unable to continue. On 16 October 1812, he died. He was remembered for his courage, selflessness and his religious devotion. He is celebrated on 19 October.



## A View from the Green...



October 1st 2024 marks the beginning of Black History Month, widely regarded as one of the most prominent cultural celebrations of the year. This year Black History Month UK has a compelling theme: "Reclaiming Narratives". This theme is not just about revisiting history; it's about taking ownership of the stories that define black culture, contributions, and identity. The hope is that Black communities across the UK will be encouraged to step into the role of storytellers, historians, and custodians of their heritage recognising that for too long their histories have been narrated by others, leading to distorted portrayals that fail to capture the full breadth and depth of their experiences. Further on in this issue are details of some of the many events that will be taking place locally across October but try to be in Church on 13<sup>th</sup> October when, in our All-Age Service, our young people will be sharing with us inspirational stories of the black community in Croydon past and present.

It occurred to me that that theme "Reclaiming Narratives" speaks to the Christian community as well. That thought came to mind as I looked again at the welcome poster our Junior Church members created last Sunday – making it clear that in God's house ALL are welcome **without exception**. Those two words in bold appear at the foot of their poster which we plan to frame and display in the Church porch. For too long, often for what they believe to be the best motives, Christians of all denominations have attempted to control God's guest list – deciding who was worthy to be part of the local church family and who should be excluded. Perhaps this shouldn't surprise us – after all the Pharisees kept complaining at the type of people Jesus kept company with! But we need to reclaim God's narrative and share the message of His amazing, generous, inclusive love in this our Church and community.



Hilary Fife

This October may we all listen attentively and learn from our brothers and sisters in the black community. May we also take time to grow in our understanding of God's radically inclusive love.

## It happened in October

It is interesting to see what happened this month in years gone by. But, given the current situation in the Holy Land, one October historical event really stands out: - on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1994 Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, jointly won the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize. If we are allowed to pray for repeats, this is one worth thinking (and praying) about.

Another "Yes please" event has an October date: on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1994 the three main loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland announced a ceasefire following the IRA's ceasefire announcement on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. Northern Ireland is in a much better place than once it was, but it is no secret that there are still unhealthy animosities and some confusion between politics and crime.

On 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1984 the South African Anglican bishop Desmond Tutu won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the opposition to apartheid. on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1964 the American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality in the USA without violence. Racism remains one of the world's problems; and it surfaces in many countries when there are e.g. economic issues. It seems to survive as an issue in the sports world too. The introduction of postcodes (11th October 1959), the ending of the right of all hereditary peer rights to sit in the House of Lords (27th October 1999), and the first Parkrun (2nd October 2004), are worth noting.... But not in quite the same category as the big ones mentioned above.

On 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1974 Oskar Schindler, Austria-Hungarian-born German businessman, died. He saved more than 1,100 Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories. The story is told in the film *Schindler's List*. We can't claim a death as good news; but the Schindler reminder is timely as we hear of the election successes in Germany of a very right wing party that (fairly or unfairly) has been likened to the Nazi Party. Schindler reminds us that in situations, and at times, when some people are behaving badly, there are always other people who behave well.

On 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1949 the People's Republic of China was founded by Mao Zedong.

## Weed or Wild Flower?

For some people, "If I didn't plant it, it's a weed!" Here are some counter-thoughts from a much longer Bible Reading Fellowship piece by Martyn Payne: "Consider the wild flowers". Martyn is pastor of a village church on the verge of NE London.

This summer I enjoyed making use of an app on my phone. It helped me identify the wild flowers that were growing in abundance along the hedgerows and in the meadows where we went walking. .. Ruth, who was walking with me, had already identified them! I struggle to remember these flowers' common but highly descriptive names. Bird's foot trefoil, traveller's joy, periwinkle, foxglove, ragged robin, meadow sweet, lady's bedstraw and buttercup. The list goes on and on, and it was always a delight to find a new species on our walks and, sometimes, one that even my app struggled to name. Thankfully there are still some mysteries in life.

There is something very special about enjoying God's creation that is untamed and untouched by human hand. No wonder Jesus urged us to 'consider the wild flowers' when he was teaching the crowds about his Father's love and care for each one of us. The uncultivated and unexpected appearance of wild flowers on the land, which has nothing to do with our hard work, planning and attention, reminds us that God is the one who gives the growth and that God's capacity for producing variety and beauty is endless. I wonder what your favourite wild flower is and what message from God it has for you?

*To see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wild flower, hold Infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour.' (William Blake)*

Wild flowers bring us hope that God is still looking after our planet, despite all that we have done to damage and unbalance its delicate ecosystems. They give us a glimpse of heaven on earth and assure us that God's promise of 'a future and a hope' for our world has not changed. No wonder then that part of our response to the climate emergency is to rewild the land wherever possible and encourage the growth of wild flowers. Whether that is the patch of soil on the pavement outside our home in the city or an acre of woodland, such as we have near our church, or the margins of the farmers' fields which are now being left uncultivated to allow the wild flowers to grow. *"Even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like them."*



## Everybody's Church

*Help us, Lord, individually and collectively, to notice those who get ignored; value those who are discounted; welcome in those who are left out; see the potential in those who have been written off; long for those whom nobody wants; learn from those nobody thinks are worth listening to; love those nobody cares about. We ask it in the name of your Son, who died as an outsider but whose salvation is all-inclusive. Amen.*

Angie was 7. She and her Mum sometimes went to a church on Sunday morning - not on an ought to, but on a want to basis. There were a number of churches within easy walking distance of where they lived; and this little family went to the church they fancied that Sunday. They didn't feel that they owned one particular church, or that one particular church owned them. This Sunday seemed a good Sunday for going to church—up in time, nice day, breakfast over, no other commitments, and meeting people sounded good....as did some cheerful bells from one of the churches. So Mum said: "Which one? You choose."

Angie was a think before speak child (unusual, but not unique). She responded: "Mum, which church will God be going to this Sunday?" [If she had done any Latin, she might have asked about "attending".] Mum also thought before speaking; and you can see why: "God is always everywhere" needs a bit of further explanation...or at least discussion. Eventually, Mum said "I think maybe God looks in on all the churches. But maybe it's easier to notice God in some churches. Angie, where have you most seen God?" OK, the Mum question is a bit suspect in grammar and theology; but Angie and Mum both understood the question, and that is all that matters.

Angie said, "The one with the big tower. That's the one where I was really awful, and should have been chucked out; and the minister man said "Hope to see you again", and smiled at me."

## 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)

**Wednesday October 2nd 7 30 p.m. Shirley Methodist Church 7 30 p.m.**  
(Probably no Zoom link)

**Thursday November 7th West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church**  
**7 30 p.m.**  
(May be Zoom link)

**Tuesday December 3rd 7 30 p.m. St John's**  
(May be Zoom link)

### 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**

**Poetry Page****Autumn: John Clare**

*The thistledown's flying, though the winds are all still,  
On the green grass now lying, now mounting the hill,  
The spring from the fountain now boils like a pot;  
Through stones past the counting it bubbles red-hot.*

*The ground parched and cracked is like overbaked bread,  
The greensward all wracked is, bents dried up and dead.  
The fallow fields glitter like water indeed,  
And gossamers twitter, flung from weed unto weed.*

*Hill-tops like hot iron glitter bright in the sun,  
And the rivers we're eying burn to gold as they run;  
Burning hot is the ground, liquid gold is the air;  
Whoever looks round sees Eternity there.*

**Some notes for you to note**

- ♥ **Deadline for the November magazine: Sunday October 20th.**
- ♥ **The Bible Reading Group** We are continuing to read the Book Ecclesiasticus until the beginning of February. Then the New Testament Letters of James, John, Peter and Jude.) Your Bible may not include Ecclesiasticus. The book is a rich source of discussion material about behaviour and relationships. 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: October choice is Autumn Poems.** The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness has inspired a lot of poetry. Google Autumn Poems and see what you already know, and what you might like to explore. Anyone with a favourite Autumn poem, please let us know.
- **Bywood Woods Litter Pick: Saturday October 19th 10 a.m. to 12 noon.** Helpers welcome: children with accompanying adult please. Clothing and footwear for rough ground please. High viz jackets, and pick-up sticks, and bags, will be provided.

**Gwen Paulwell R.I.P.**

Gwen died, in hospital, on September 1st - having never really recovered from the stroke that took her suddenly and unexpectedly from her home in Fairway Close. Our prayers are with Selvyn (the carpenter) and all her family. Gwen had been for many years a re-assuring presence at St George's: someone always there, as part of a little group that was always there; and the church family felt better because she was there. She was not given to being prominent; but she noticed people. She said what needed to be said; and did what needed to be done. Examples are flower rota, coffee rota, clearing up, and.....chilli sauce. The wife of the carpenter is important in church history. This one is important in our history. We shall miss you, Gwen.

**Gwen Paulwell Funeral Service at St George's  
Wednesday October 2nd  
at 12 noon**



Margaret Ziolek in Cranmer Court. Margaret, once at the heart of a lot of what George's does (including initiating many things) is still very much part of the St George's family: Praying for us and with us, as well as prayed for by us. She receives Communion, and welcomes the latest news.

### Maybe a smile

**Halloween costumes:** My six-year-old son was excited about choosing his Halloween costume. "I'm going to be the Pope," he announced proudly. "But Ian, you can't be the Pope. You're not Catholic," I explained. "You're Church of England."

My son was silent for a few moments, while he considered his alternatives. Then, "Well, is Dracula Church of England?"

### Signs of our times? Pew-sheet notices that didn't come out quite right...

Would the person who took the church step ladder last week please bring it back, or further steps will be taken.

After Sunday morning coffee, please empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Our visiting monster today is the Revd Jack Bains.

Church toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

Worshippers are asked to wail, until the choir has been served Holy Communion.

**Laodicean hymns:** The Laodicean Church was described in the Bible as being lukewarm. So here is a list of some of the hymns they might sing: Teach Me, Lord, Thy Easy Way We Are Milling Around in the Light of God When Peace, like a Trickle When the Saints Go Sneaking In

**Growing up:** Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.

**Truth:** If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

**Bug:** Some days you are the bug; some days you are the windscreen.

**Judgement:** Good judgement comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement. **Mouth:** A closed mouth gathers no foot.

**Lips:** Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

**Retirement:** The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.

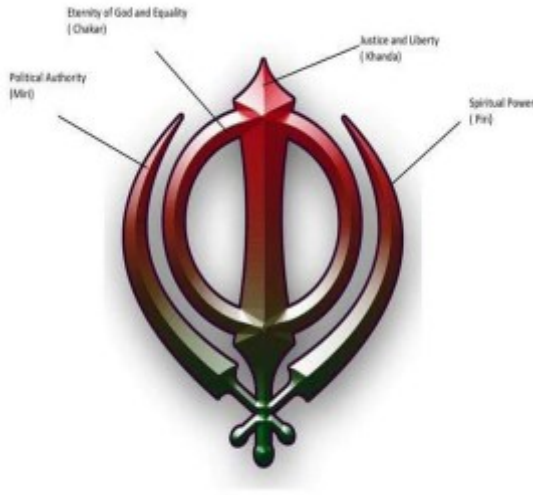
**Visiting the sick:** The vicar had been summoned to the bedside of a local Baptist woman who was quite ill. As he went up the walk, he met the little daughter and said, "I'm very glad your mother remembered me in her illness. Is your Baptist minister out of town?" "No," answered the child. "He's at home, but we thought it might be something contagious, and we didn't want to expose him to it."

**Passwords:** An elderly vicar got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords." The vicar replied: "Excellent! What are they? Just wait while I grab a pen."

Ever feel like life is a car wash and you're on a bicycle?

### Symbols

Not quite what the dictionary says, but symbols might be defined as "sign language". Some powerful symbols are a bit like their "sounds the same" cousins cymbals: they shout a message at you. Many, like the traditional Sikh ("kandha") symbol shown here are only meaningful once explained. If you can't make out the explanations on the picture, they are Political Authority, Eternity of God and Equality, Justice and Liberty, and Spiritual Power.



For Christians, the primary symbol is the Empty Cross. This speaks of Sacrifice, Death and Resurrection, Humility, Helplessness and Power, Self-identification with the Outsider. The Crucifix (or "cross with the little man on it" as the girl in the jewellers said it) focuses on Suffering. What do you make of these other frequently used Christian symbols?



First, the initial letters of Christ, and Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet: a statement about God/Jesus being the Beginning and the End. The second is also Greek-based: the letters that spell fish (ichthus in Greek) are the initial letters of Jesus God's Son Saviour (in Greek). The simplified fish sign was developed very early in Christian history - understood by other Christians, but safer in times of persecution than an "I Love Jesus" badge. The third symbol is the Lamb of God. The sacrificial lamb was an obvious take from the crucifixion at

### That odd business of praying: Number 157 Googled "Autumn Prayer", with little hope, and found:

# Autumn Blessing

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.





### Magic Numbers

There aren't any. If you go in for betting/gambling, or are superstitious, you may believe otherwise. Because certain numbers appear frequently in the Bible, God chose those numbers? I prefer the view that those who wrote about God chose those numbers. P.S. The Bible Book of "Numbers" was given that name because Moses counted the people in the wilderness. The original Hebrew title of the book was "In the Wilderness". Counting the people was always a bit suspect, because God people were supposed to rely on support of God, NOT strength of numbers.

The wilderness time is reported as **40** years. So let's start with that number: It appears 159 times in the New King James Bible. The Flood lasted **40** days. Jonah gave Nineveh a **40** days warning. Moses received the Law over a 40 day period. Jesus fasted in the wilderness for **40** days. Jesus showed Himself on earth for **40** days after the Resurrection. **40** days looks like the ideal learning period.

The number **7** appears 461 times in the New King James Bible. **7** days of Creation. Pharaoh's **7** good harvest years and **7** bad harvest years. The Jewish army marched around Jericho for **7** days. With the seventh day (and the seventh year) being special, **7** features again and again in Jewish worship practice. In the New Testament, the Book of Revelation features **7** churches..and **7** seals, **7** trumpets, **7** last plagues.. Interestingly, the number **7** was important in many other parts of the world where the Bible did not shape things. If you want to put it that way, God invented the **7** day week. **7** goes with perfection: earth+heaven.

**12** appears 187 times in New King James. **12** Tribes of Israel. **12** Apostles. Perhaps less familiar, **10** appears 226 times. **10** Egyptian plagues, **10** Commandments, and (New Testament) **10** silver coins, **10** servants, and **10** wise/foolish virgins, in Jesus stories. (Most of us have **10** fingers and **10** toes.)

You might like to do your own research on 144,000, 666, and 13.

## CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2024

### Key

▼ Morning Prayer:

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

		▼ Tue 1 Oct	
			12.00n Funera 7.30pm Shirley
Sun 6 Oct TRINITY 19	▼ Mon 7 Oct	▼ Tue 8 Oct	
10.00 Sung Eucharist: Rev. Jenny Walpole's leading her first Sunday service at St. George's	9.30-11.30 am Little Dragons 10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 13 Oct BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION	▼ Mon 14 Oct	▼ Tue 15 Oct	▼
10.00 All-Age Live Sung Eucharist	9.30-11.30 am Little Dragons 10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 20 Oct TRINITY 21	▼ Mon 21 Oct	▼ Tue 22 Oct	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist	9.30-11.30 am Little Dragons 10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 27 Oct BIBLE SUNDAY	▼ Mon 28 Oct	▼ Tue 29 Oct	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel

Monday 14th October 7 30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Shirley Neighbourhood Care AGM  
In the Tamberlin Room at St John's.



<p><b>Dates for your Diary:</b>                  'All Souls' Service: Sunday 3rd November - 4.00pm                  '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 2 Oct	▼ Thurs 3 Oct	▼ Fri 4 Oct	Sat 5 Oct
noon Gwen Paulwell's al n CTIS Prayers: y Methodist Church	7.30pm Licensing /Induction of Rev. Jenny Walpole		10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
▼ Wed 9 Oct	▼ Thurs 10 Oct	▼ Fri 11	Sat 12 Oct
m Eucharist - Lady			10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
▼ Wed 16 Oct	▼ Thurs 17 Oct	▼ Fri 18 Oct	Sat 19 Oct
m Eucharist - Lady			10.00-4.00 Shirley Singers Rehearsal
▼ Wed 23 Oct	▼ Thurs 24 Oct	▼ Fri 25 Oct	Sat 26 Oct
m Eucharist - Lady			10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement
▼ Wed 30 Oct	▼ Thurs 31 Oct		
m Eucharist - Lady			

airtrade Advent Calendars: See [www.MeaningfulChocolate.co.uk](http://www.MeaningfulChocolate.co.uk) for details of this and other  
 options. If you want to order through St George's, please contact Andy Bebington by 31st Octo-  
 r. Bulk purchase discount can help both you and the church. Andy's Email is:  
[andy.bebington@gmail.com](mailto:andy.bebington@gmail.com)

1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
9							10							
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Solon 177

Across

- 1 Block ex-pupil on street oddly cancelled (8)
- 6 Remove items from a French gang (6)
- 9 Candlemaker sees everyone in drag (6)
- 10 Cleanish sort of people (8)
- 11 Ahem, Kate's erratically speeding (4,5)
- 13 Escort addict around hospital (5)
- 15 Useless old testament interpretation others say essential at first (6)
- 17 More than half doped worker is a stickler (6)
- 18 Meat that is more daring (6)

19 Mark oddly found in sitting amiably (6)

- 21 Obscure one supported by a biblical region (5)
- 22 Future host leaves three of hearts (9)
- 25 Flannel for quiet cleaner (4-4)
- 26 With Solon side has company in state (6)
- 28 Bird found in large quarry (6)
- 29 Irresponsible to lose redhead - that's cheeky (8)

Down

- 2 Wear snake around the neck (3)
- 3 It led jerkily to a mark (5)
- 4 Plant cop working with lawyers (3,7)
- 5 Turn on former name? (6)
- 6 One returns erratically in triangular

- 7 Force into media group (5,4)
- 8 Reduce cat centre on diversion (11)
- 12 In Paris to have mixed opium dens, but without men carrying weight (11)
- 14 In any case heard plan used to forecast external conditions (7,3)
- 16 Policeman reading popular magazine without heartless aunt (9)
- 20 Where key Greek character lived (6)
- 23 Bewildered and spotted in book (5)
- 24 Find old coin seen in pouch down under (4)
- 27 Preserve half of dance (3)

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

**Answers to September puzzles:-  
Crossword:**

**Across:** 4 Rough-hew, 8 Paella,  
9 Outdated, 10 Likeness,  
11 Seesaw, 12 Declares,  
14 Inedible, 17 Big shots,  
20 Yuletide, 22 Editor,  
24 Annotate, 25 Familiar,  
26 Amount, 27 Tankards.

**Down:** 1 Cabinet, 2 Sleepless,  
3 Career, 4 Roos, 5 Untested,  
6 Heave, 7 Eyeball, 13 Sissy,  
15 Imitation, 16 Courtier,  
18 Indiana, 19 Editing,  
21 Landau, 23 Trick, 24 Arms.

**Sudoku:** 165347289/  
349286175/ 278159643/  
713528496/ 826974531/  
594613728/ 637495812/  
981762354/ 452831967

**Perfection**

*A perfectionist is a person who takes enough pains to give everybody else one.*

*Someone who knows their imperfections is as perfect as anyone can be.*

*Perfection leaves no room for improvement.*

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8		1	2				9
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2							
	4	6		3			5

**Perfection**

*If the Church were perfect, you could not belong.*

*You will never have a friend if you must have one that is perfect.*

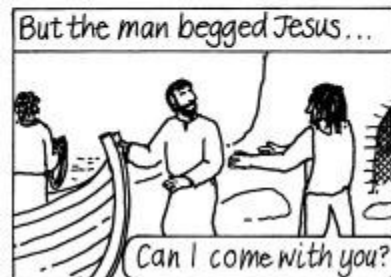
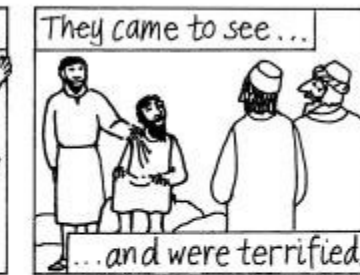
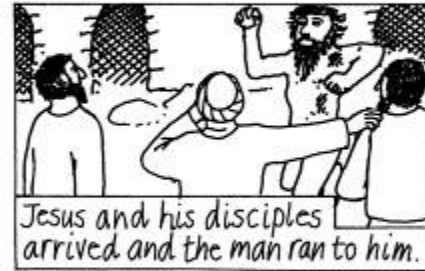
*The husband who boasts that he never made a mistake has a wife who did.*

**Bible Bite**

**A short story from the Bible**

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mk 5:1-17, Lk 8:26-39, Mt 8:28-34

In Gerasa was a man filled with demons. He tore off any clothes or chains put on him, and he lived in the graveyard.



## Yes, but why?

You will notice that Mark and Matthew and Luke all include this story. (John liked to be different!) Given that the healing miracle led to Jesus being invited to move on rather than being invited to stay; that the healed man was left as a one-man mission team among folk who could be expected to be a bit anxious about possible relapse; and that the pig owner had lost all his property, and the pig herd his job, you might be tempted to ask why things were done this way. And weren't pigs unclean animals? And, on the animal welfare front, if God marks the fall of a sparrow, does God not mark the fall of a pig?

First, note that the Gospel stories differ in terms of how many possessed men there were: one or two. Second, this was Gentile territory, so it probably wasn't Jews who were breaking the Jewish rules by pig keeping (cf the Prodigal Son)...perhaps to feed Roman soldiers. Third, even today people disagree over whether demon possession is a reality; though those today who do accept it as a real thing don't claim that all mental illness is demon possession. Fourth, at a time when this extreme mental alienation WAS seen by victims and observers as demon possession, there probably was a need to show very convincingly that the demons had moved on.

Commentators have remarked that the Gospel account which features the demons negotiating transfer to the pigs rather than final destruction means that the pigs gained only a few minutes delay in final destruction. Jesus didn't directly cause the rush to the cliff edge: that was the pigs' reaction to being invaded by the demons. (The numbers emphasise the multiplicity of demons.)

As so often happens, the commentators are very confident in giving their widely different "explanations". Hang onto: 1) It requires no great imagination to believe that there are evil forces at work in the world - and not just the combined impact of human bad choices. In so far as these evil forces exist, God is more powerful than them, and will ultimately destroy them - at a cost. 2) The outsider, whatever the nature of his or her alienation, is never so far gone as to be beyond redemption. 3) In terms of discipleship, there is both team ministry and individual ministry. Solo or collective, our witness can be shaped by both our downs and our ups. 4) Maybe, the sacrifice of the 2,000 pigs made more good sense than ritual massacre of thousands of animals to appease their Creator.

## Adam was a Gardener...and Eve probably got involved too (Filtered) from the Royal Horticultural Society

Fancy swapping weightlifting and squats for mowing the lawn and digging the soil? It's common knowledge that taking care of the garden on a frequent basis has positive effects on the environment, and promotes mental wellbeing. But does it count as exercise for your body?

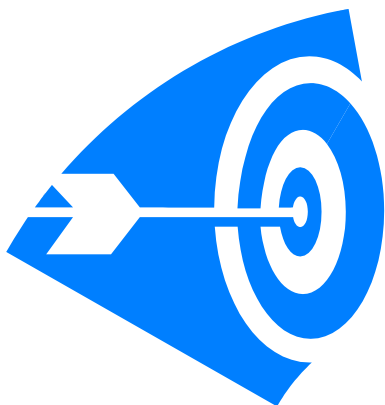
Indeed, it does. Experts suggest that gardening can serve as a substitute for the gym, offering numerous physical health benefits. The more time you spend gardening, the more likely your fitness levels are to improve.

Gardening is much more than a hobby. Not only is it a key component of rehabilitation programs, such as those aiding recovery after a stroke or helping to reduce the risk of heart disease, but it can also help you to shed pounds while enjoying the benefits of being outdoors.

According to the 2019 UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines, adults should engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity each week. The good news for gardeners is that a 2021 study by Harvard Medical School found that 30 minutes of gardening can burn a comparable number of calories to a variety of sports. Depending on your weight, gardening can burn between 135 and 189 calories, which is on par with other moderate exercises like walking, cycling or yoga. You'll be pleased to know that gardening is as intense as calisthenics – a form of strength training that uses a person's body weight and requires little or no equipment – and even more demanding than badminton or volleyball at a non-competitive level.

*How much gardening you can do depends both on how much garden you have (your garden or somewhere else you can do gardening), and on your health and strength. But modest and often is usually better, in terms of physical and mental health and in terms of garden welfare, than the occasional blitz. Small space or big space, planning is required: think about what you want before you start doing it. You don't need to compete with the neighbours: you might learn from them what is possible. Think Year Round. Think Colour, Scent, Wild Life: Who and What are you gardening for?*

## Younger Readers Page: Though maybe older readers could also look Seeing, Not Seeing, Imagining, Kidding Yourself



AN joined the school ornithological (bird) society at the same time as I did. He went on the same outings. He “saw” the “birds you might see if you are lucky” which the rest of us did not see. I remain unsure whether he was more lucky, more observant (looked more carefully), or more imaginative, than the rest of us. Kidding yourself is imagining what is not there, and is generally thought to be a bad thing. Good imagining is seeing what is there, and thinking beyond what you are actually seeing.... though if you see somebody pick up a bar of

chocolate in a shop and always imagine the picker up is going to steal the chocolate, that isn't good.

In theory, everyone with two good eyes who is there when there is something to see, sees the same thing. That isn't what actually happens. (As you probably know if you have talked with friends or family about what you saw on a shared outing.) BAD social media stuff includes people reporting what they didn't actually see at all; and people reporting something they did see, but burying the real stuff in a lot of false imagining.

You get much more out of life, and give much more to life, if you try to keep your eyes and your mind open. A very simple natural world example: Everyone “knows” that big birds bully little birds away from the bird table. I SEE a House Sparrow pecking back at a Feral Pigeon six times its size, and getting the seed it was competing for. Everyone “knows” that Parakeets fight for food. I SEE them taking turns, and patiently waiting. In terms of the human world, everyone “knows” that people (some people in particular....teenagers?) are not good at looking out for other people. I do SEE bad manners, but I also see lots of people (of all ages) showing a great deal of concern for other people. When I SEE the bad examples, I try to keep an open mind about why the person is not behaving well. If you are feeling lousy and have just had bad news and are really worried about something, perhaps smilingly looking out for other people is not your priority?

## Black History Month Events

There are a variety of interesting and exciting events planned locally for Black History Month. We've included a few here that you might enjoy. Top of the list I guess might be the service and discussion advertised here at Southwark Cathedral where our Archbishop Justin will be presiding. Attendance is open to all.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> & Sun 13<sup>th</sup> October sees a Pop Up market in West Norwood Picturehouse to celebrate this month. You'll find fashion for men and women, jewellery, wellbeing, hair and skin care, crafts and arts and more.

The Association of Jamaicans UK are holding a concert on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. – 7.30pm – 9.30pm at Bedford Hall, 72-74 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR0 2AR

Tickets are £20 (Adult); £10 (11-16) or Free (under 10's) Light refreshments will be included in the ticket. Hot refreshments will be on sale on the night during the interval. Doors open at 7.15pm. It will be a fun filled family event with a steel pan band, live performers and entertainers on the night. Tickets from Eventbrite or phone 07368 399801

In the afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October the Natural History Museum in South Kensington has a “Women in Science Tour: Women of Colour”. On this tour you'll learn about the inspirational work of these women and how they contributed to our understanding of life on Earth and beyond. You'll discover what got them into science, how they began their careers and what they love about their jobs. The tours are free but you need to book through the museum.

If you were disappointed to miss The Black History Walk Tour in Croydon, a unique walking tour, delivering a diverse and engaging programme of education and experiences, exploring African/Caribbean history on Saturday 21st September don't worry! Another is planned for 9<sup>th</sup> November.



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

**Please note that readings may change**

**Sunday 6 October: Trinity XIX**

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

**Psalms 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...

**Sunday 13 October: Trinity XX**

**Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15:** So seek God and live!

**Psalms 90: 12-end:** Teach us to live well!

**Hebrews 4: 12-end:** He's been through weakness and testing.

**Mark 10: 17-31:** What must I do to get eternal life?

**Sunday 20 October: Trinity XXI**

**Isaiah 53: 4-end:** Through his bruises we get healed.

**Psalms 91: 9-end:** Call me, and I'll answer.

**Hebrews 5: 1-10:** He suffered, just as we do.

**Mark 10: 35-45:** He came to serve.

**Sunday 27 October: Bible Sunday**

**Isaiah 55: 1-11:** Listen to me, listen well.

**Psalms 19: 7-end:** The revelation of God is whole.

**2 Timothy 3.14-4.5:** Keep on your watch.

**John 5: 36b – end:** I'm not interested in crowd appeal.

**Sunday 3 November: All Saints**

**Isaiah 25: 6-9:** A feast for all the people of the world.

**Psalms 24: 1-6:** God is at their side.

**Revelation 21: 1-6a:** I saw heaven and earth new created.

**John 11: 32-44:** "Lazarus, come out!"

**Sunday 10 November: Remembrance Sunday**

**Jonah 3: 1-5, 10:** Upon your feet, and on your way!

**Psalms 62: 5-end:** God, the one and only.

**Hebrews 9: 24 - end:** Christ's death was a sacrifice that took care of sins for ever

**Mark 1: 14-20:** Change your life, and believe the Message.

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

Dan Pretty	David Lawn	Selvin Paulwell
Sonia	Sue Moore	Pam Purkiss
Jean	Julie	Ian Cordery
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	Karen Dovey
Helen McMullan	Helen Aylward	Sheila Dennis
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 [stgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorge@gmail.com) or 020 8776 0185**

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

Can you identify the painters? (£10 prize for first correct answer)



A  
C

B  
D

E F

## 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)

### Cars

*It's not the used cars that are a menace on the roads - it's the misused cars*

*There are too many people in too many cars in too much of a hurry going too many directions to get nowhere for nothing.*

*Don't drive as if you owned the road - drive as if you owned the car.*

## 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

## Cars

*The wheel was man's greatest invention, until he got behind it.*

*A car can help you see the world, but it's up to you decide which world.*

*The biggest need in car safety is the recall of defective drivers.*

## 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 servicer 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.

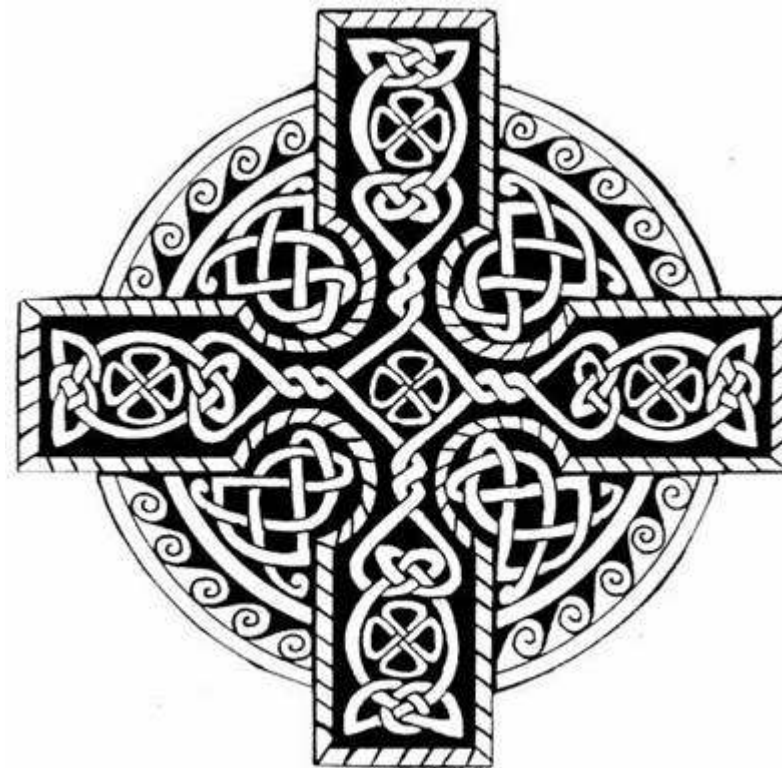
### TV Repairs

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)