



# St George The Martyr Shirley

## Christ in the Community

All Saints: November 1st/3rd



**A Member of Churches Together in Shirley**

**November 2024**

**50p**

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All under 5's with their parents/ carers welcome

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Contact: Regina 07825 428465

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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..

**Priest in Charge: The Reverend Jennifer Walpole** 2 The Grove, West Wickham BR4 9JS 07947 585 326 rev.jennywalpole@gmail.com (Her main day off is Friday.)

**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)**



## All Saints!

When St Paul wrote about the saints, he was writing to the saints: that is to ordinary humans (men and women, young and old) who were trying to be what the dictionary defines as saints: holy, godly, and useful. Some of the saints are always on the go, often far from home and family. Others are "local" people living community. Others can't get out of bed. All are good at listening and noticing, and doing (including praying) - even the

saints whose hearing, sight, and mobility are not all that good. Service, not halo, marks them out. They can manage a smile.

## View from the vicarage

The first word in the Benedictine rule is: Listen. This word reminds us of our prayerful orientation both to God and to one another. This is my priority for the first few months of my ministry with you. I want to learn from you and listen to you as we seek the way ahead.

Listening is not always easy, especially when there are lots of things we want to say and do, however, we listen to understand. As I seek to open my ears to the parish, I am trying to understand who we are as a community. To do this well I will need to listen to as many different voices as possible. I simply want to get to know you and build relationships in the parish.

Please do let me know if you would like to arrange a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. I'd be happy to visit you at home or in your place of work. You are also welcome to arrange a meeting with me, here at the vicarage. It would be lovely to hear from you.

Over the next year, and together with the fantastic team, we will discern the way forward together. The first thing I need to do is listen both to you, and to God, in prayer. Thank you for your warm welcome to St George's.

God bless,  
Rev Jenny

Email: [rev.jennywalpole@gmail.com](mailto:rev.jennywalpole@gmail.com).  
Phone: 07947 585 326

## November People

The November Lectionary (from the Latin verb lego = read) sets out all the official weekday and Sunday readings for that month, and lists all the (sort of famous) men and women we are asked to remember on particular days during that month. With **All Saints** and **All Souls** at the beginning of the month, and English Saints and Martyrs on November 8th, and Remembrance Sunday, November is much the most inclusive month. [Guy Fawkes does not feature.] It is interesting to see the variety of people celebrated. There are 19 named individuals - of whom 8 are women: not bad, given the sexist tendency of history.

In brief: **Leonard:** noted for giving away rank and money, living very simply and alone, and caring for pregnant women and prisoners of war. **William Temple:** Archbishop of York then Canterbury, who made the Church of England more democratic, and had considerable influence on creating the welfare state. **Willibrord:** a brave pioneer missionary in Europe, building both church buildings and church people in difficult circumstances. **Margery Kempe:** A mother of many children, probably unable to read or write, whose visions encouraged others. **Martin of Tours:** Resigned as a soldier on becoming a Christian, gave his cloak to a poor man, maintained a very simple life as a bishop, and conscientiously visited his flock. **Charles Simeon:** a great preacher - word and example.

**Samuel Seabury:** an interesting example of an American churchman (first bishop) moving from slave owning to condemning slavery. **Margaret of Scotland:** A royal person who lived a full Christian life, and had a hugely civilising influence on church and state. **Edmund Rich:** a reluctant Archbishop, great scholar (especially maths), and unafraid to challenge power when it was misused. Keen on things being well done. **Elizabeth of Hungary:** Generous when rich, cleaning the homes of the poor when herself a poor Franciscan, died age 24. **Hilda:** of royal birth, a great scholar and stateswoman, abbess of a female and male community. **Mechtild of Magdeburg:** poet and mystic. **Edmund:** Royal martyr, refusing to abandon his faith when captured by Vikings. **Priscilla Sellon:** Gentle, kind and determined founder of a 19th Century religious order. **Cecilia:** Martyr patron saint of musicians. **Clement:** Championed repentance and restoration. **Catherine of Alexandria:** The wheel! **Isaac Watts:** HYMNS!!! **Andrew:** The first missionary.

## Imagining



Nativity plays go far beyond the often-pictured modest cost simplicity of dressing gown and tea-towel headdress, or pretty frock and tinsel headdress if you are a (female) angel. Francis of Assisi may hold copyright for re-enacting the Nativity, but it is a long-standing and very popular way of trying to capture a key event in more memorable ways than either words on a page or paint on a page can do. The actors imagine and reproduce what it might have been like for the original participants. The audience shares in

what the actors are portraying. This way of getting across a message is not peculiar to fairly recent centuries or to Christianity. The Old Testament features re-enactment: most notably, the Passover Meal is a re-enactment of the beginning of the Exodus from Egypt. (Just as the Communion/Eucharist/Mass is a re-enactment of the Last Supper.)

Very few plays/dramas are "just" precise re-enactment of known events. They involve imagination and interpretation, both because we usually don't know all the details, and because the writer (and the actors) has a viewpoint. Members of the audience are free to pick up and take away their own messages. I can't claim to have seen all the religious drama at St George's over 87 years, but I doubt very much whether there has ever been a child or adult (or all-age) presentation from which all the participants and spectators took away exactly the same messages.

Of course, drama is not reality; but treasure the thought that Christian life is acted out faith; and religious drama "on the stage" (whether tea towels or elaborate costumes) is a useful prompt to real life acting. All those who have heard the story of the child inn-keeper who told Mary she could come in, but told Joseph that he couldn't, remember this example of taking your role seriously. I know a number of people who played Jesus in a passion play, who said the role-playing had really stayed with them. As someone who has played Herod, I can add that playing the "maybe more bad than good" part does not seem to have lasting ill effects. Walking in someone else's shoes isn't good for the feet: it is good for the soul.

## Christian Aid Presents as a Christian Christmas Option

The first Christmas present (taking Christmas as the Feast of the Nativity) was not gold, closely followed by frankincense and myrrh, but Jesus Himself. That reality does tend to put traditional Christmas presents (love-based or conscience-based) in perspective. For that reason, or other reasons, there has been a tendency in recent years (among both Christians and non-Christians) to think about the option of giving someone you love the gift of a donation to a good cause - rather than something that they themselves can use, or not.

Christian Aid offers a range of options this year - including options as to what sort of message your friend or relative receives. Check out the options on [caid.org.uk/gifts](http://caid.org.uk/gifts)

**Supporting resilience in a changing climate: A pair of chickens: £10:** Giving a business start-up to someone in troubled South Sudan.

**Peacebuilding and conflict prevention: Olive Tree Sapling: £20:** Giving hope to Palestinian farmers who are very much in the news because their hopes are being taken away.

**Education: Send a child to school: £25:** Giving mothers in Burundi (one of the world's poorest countries) help in paying for a school place for a girl or boy.

**Help in an Emergency: Emergency essentials: £60:** Water containers, soap, towel, shampoo, sanitary pads, toothbrushes and toothpaste, for displaced households in the Sudan.

**Gender Justice: Sustainable business start-up: £100:** Business start-up in Burundi equipping women to break free from poverty and gender-based violence

**Supporting resilience in a changing climate: Equip a bee-keeper: £116:** In places where e.g. coffee and maize farming have become more difficult, bee-keeping offers a sustainable farming option.

**Help in an Emergency: Medical care in a crisis: £130:** Mobile clinics, supplying antibiotics, and other medical support, in refugee camps and conflict zones.

**A space to learn and play: Art workshops: £166:** Palestinian children are losing both homes and schools. Rafah is offering children in shelters the opportunity to come together and enjoy being children.

## 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)

**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***

***Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by***  
***the seeds you plant (RLS)***



**Poetry Page****Rocket in the Room: Oksana Maksymchuk  
(Ukraine)**

*what the rocket has in common  
 with the room full of children  
 is its current location  
 somebody thought the rocket  
 belonged to the room with children  
 and now it's here  
 in time  
 someone else will come  
 and collect the pieces  
 of the rocket and of the children  
 weeping and shouting insults  
 at the sky  
 but for now  
 this rocket and these children  
 are an unsorted matter  
 a puzzle  
 awaiting a solution*

**Some notes for you to note**

- ♥ **Deadline for the December magazine: Sunday November 17th.**
- ♥ **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: November choice is C S Lewis's "Last Battle"**. This is the final book in the Narnia series, and a powerful narrative from a number of perspectives. Well worth reading...and re-reading.
- **Ivy: for or against?** Ivy is not something we have planted in the church grounds (or, probably, in our own gardens), and once ivy has done its own thing in terms of arriving it does tend to take over. So, the temptation is to see ivy as an enemy to be destroyed. A National Trust member asked why the Trust does not automatically *remove ivy from the base of trees*. Tom Hurst, the Trust's Trees and Woodland Adviser, responded: *We generally tend to leave it because it's a critical indigenous plant that supports nesting birds, bats, bees and butterflies - many of which are in steep decline nationally. There is currently no scientific evidence to suggest the presence of ivy on trees has any parasitical or detrimental impact.* So there you have it: control yes, destruction no.
- **St George's Winter Fayre: Saturday November 16th 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission £1 per adult. Accompanied children free. Christmas Model Railway. Local Crafts. Side Shows. Raffles. Refreshments. Etc. Etc. Do come and enjoy the opportunity and the company.**

## Fight the good fight



At a rugby-playing school, it wasn't in line with tradition to say, "I don't see the point in fighting over a ball!" At that time, physical playground fights were not unknown among the boys. I think girls could be equally nasty to each other; but were less likely to go for physical fighting. Boxing and wrestling were then apparently male only sports, and rugby mainly so.

Christianity does talk quite a lot about fighting. John S B Monsell's

19th Century "Fight the good fight" hymn is not the only hymn example: in its traditional version, "Onward Christian soldiers" go "marching into War". The Bible says much about fighting: including the give-away "In the spring when kings go to war" (2 Samuel 11.1 and 1 Chronicles 20.1). Jesus is better remembered for telling Peter, in the Garden of Gethsemane, to put his sword away. But, in Luke 22.36, Jesus is reported as recommending that the disciples sell their clothes to buy a sword. We talk about "The Church Militant". We are encouraged in the Baptism Service, as disciples of Christ, to "fight against sin, the world, and the devil". This IS "The Good Fight".

So how does Christian pacifism fit in; and why are (I suspect) most Christians rather uncomfortable with the notion that fighting is good??

First and foremost, Jesus (who said he could have called in legions of angels to fight for him) peacefully put up with flogging, thorn-crowning and crucifixion. That does put all the fighting talk in a rather challenging context. Second, most of the fighting against evil message has nothing to do with armed resistance. It is about moral struggle: refusing to give way to evil, refusing to be sucked in, refusing to keep quiet when condemnation is needed. Sadly, we probably do need armed forces, and indeed some armed police. But in our daily lives, "fighting" prayer and volunteering have the edge on violence as a social and religious way forward.

## Maybe a smile

**When children tell Bible stories** (*real-life efforts that didn't quite make it...*)

- \* St John, the blacksmith, dumped water on Jesus' head.
- \* Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. [How many kids say "enunciate"??]
- \* Jesus ruled that "a man doth not live by sweat alone."
- \* It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
- \* The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
- \* One of the opossums was St Matthew who was also a taximan.

**As for those signs found outside churches:**

- \* Church car park sign...This is for MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!
- \* No God – No Peace. Know God – Know Peace.
- \* Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!
- \* Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- \* Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'
- \* When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too.'

\* A singing group called 'The Resurrection' was scheduled to sing at a church. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the minister fixed the outside sign to read, 'Resurrection is postponed – due to snow.'

- \* Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!
- \* Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm next Wednesday in the church lounge. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

My granddad always said, "When one door closes, another door opens." Lovely man. Terrible cabinet maker.

## Cost/Benefit Analysis

The Autumn National Trust magazine includes a fascinating article on The Price of Nature. As the writer says, the climate emergency/crisis/issue is forcing supporters of conserving what we have (and restoring what we have already lost) to make an economic case. Will the cash cost of the green space over the next 50 years be out-weighted by the cash return over the next 50 years. In 2019 the Trust commissioned research on the value of urban green spaces in 8 UK cities. Looking at recreation, public health and carbon absorption, the research put the total annual value of Plymouth green spaces at £215 million. Further work at national level suggested that, over 30 years, creating new parks and up-grading existing parks in deprived urban areas would cost £5.5 billion and deliver £204 billion in improved health and well-being, and 6,300 jobs. This would be topped up by the value of improved air quality, carbon capture and bio-diversity.



These calculations are not unscientific, but they are inevitably speculative. And how would you realistically set side by side the parks cost/benefit analysis, and a cost/benefit analysis of developing the same sites for housing, businesses, and maybe a gymnasium? From a Council perspective, there is the other very big issue that the cost of establishing and maintaining the park is likely to fall on the Council, while the cost of the alternative uses might well fall mainly on others....while the Council reaps the benefit of selling the park site.

As the Trust article also points out, while a “best guess” cost/benefit analysis (taking account of the environmental and human benefits that are so often not priced) is good, indeed essential; this is not how we make life's big personal decisions. I have never met anyone whose decisions about having a life partner, having children, having friends, going to church, choosing a hobby, going out for the day or evening, or even shaping a career, were based exclusively (or even mainly) on a £ cost/benefit analysis.

Do we want a world in which replacing the Sycamore Gap Tree (another National Trust magazine theme) is based entirely on financial cost and financial gain over the decades until another vandal with a chain saw destroys nature?

## That odd business of praying: Number 158 Responsive Prayer

**Ṙ V̇ Charis SIL** This article breaks the rules. I don't believe the Bible story that says God gave us different languages so that we wouldn't understand each other. I do believe the Bible reality that (a) God listens to and understands each of us, whatever language we speak or think, and however well or badly we speak or think it; and (b) God blesses the many people who have sought to capture His message in “new” languages.

**Ṙ V̇ Doulos SIL**

**Ṙ V̇ FreeSerif**

So the rule breaking comes in featuring special prayer language. If you couldn't care less about special prayer language, ignore this page.

Your Sunday morning service booklet when it gets to the “prayers led by someone” section (after the sermon and the creed) speaks of *intercessions*. This comes from the Latin verb to intercede, and means, in this context, asking God for what someone else needs. When I am preparing to lead the intercessions, I jot down a V and an R—though not the traditional fancy V and R shown in the box. V stands for “versicle” and R for “response”: more Latin language, but a Hebrew tradition. Versicle means, as you might guess, “short verse”. Response is what you might expect, namely the congregation joining in. If you were to do your own research, you would find another Latin word: “preces” = “prayers”. Some prayer leaders stick with what the booklet offers: V “Lord in your mercy” or “Lord hear us”, and R “Hear our prayer” or “Lord graciously hear us”. These have the advantage of not requiring unfamiliar words to be remembered; though that effort may make the prayers more memorable.

Responsive prayer is NOT about God responding. BUT, please don't turn “trusting God” into “taking God for granted”: this is easily done. It is about each and everyone of those involved (physically present or on-line) joining in, and not just leaving it to the leader to do his or her stuff. I suspect that the tradition of dividing the prayers into sections, with each section having its V and its R is to make sure everyone is still engaged... and not using the time to think about lunch, with less guilt than would be the case if you switched off/over during the sermon. If a prayer should strike you as too political, you are free not to use the response, and just keep quiet. Your silence means you are engaged.





### Clearing Out

Clearing out is part of the human experience: moving home, children moving out when (if!) they get a place of their own, down-sizing, nursing home admission, most sadly when a partnership ends in death or separation. Some are by nature change enthusiasts, and clearing out is a regular routine. (I knew one couple who revised the house almost every year.) Some are very reluctant to get rid of anything: because it “holds memories”, or because it “might come in useful one day”. Churches can be particularly reluctant to

clear out, and understandably so. Often the “perhaps no longer required” items were gifted in the first place - maybe as memorials or thanksgiving. (There may be a gifting memory, although no gifting record which might enable negotiation.) Even if there is no gifting issue, the thing in issue may be treasured by some as part of their faith journey; and not everybody prefers the **new** hymn book or the **new** prayer book. Large Bibles are a particular issue: reaching the church for many different reasons, including reluctance to throw them out although they are never used. Robes can be an issue: no longer worn, not in good condition, but still “special”.

The Rev Hillary did wonders during the interregnum clearances in finding physical and on-line access to church communities very pleased to have what we no longer wanted to hold.

Erasmus commented during the Reformation period on the challenge of distinguishing clutter from asset. He noted in particular (though not quite in those terms) the tendency to hang on obsessively to the dirty socks of the Saints, while carelessly abandoning their words and their example. Three cheers for the young woman who re-cycled her dead mother's walking shoes, but reassured the critical neighbour that she would be putting on her own shoes to continue the hospice visiting that had been an important part of her dead mother's ministry.

Keep what really matters.

## CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2024

### Key

► Morning Prayer:

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

Sun 3 Nov ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS	► Mon 4 Nov	► Tue 5 Nov	►
10.00 Sung Eucharist 4.00PM 'All Souls' Memorial Service	9.30-11.30 am Little Dragons 10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 10 Nov REMEMBRANCE	► Mon 11 Nov	► Tue 12 Nov	►
10.00 All-Age Live Sung Eucharist with Church Parade & Bugler	9.30-11.30 am Little Dragons 10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel
Sun 17 Nov SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY	► Mon 18 Nov	► Tue 19 Nov	►
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 24 CHRIST THE KING	► Mon 25 Nov	► Tue 26 Nov	►
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		11.30am Chapel



<b>Dates for your Diary:</b> Churches Together Advent Quiet Day: Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December - St. John's Tamberlin Room			
	▼ Fri 1 Nov	Sat 2 Nov	
		10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement	
▼ Wed 6 Nov	▼ Thurs 7 Nov	▼ Fri 8 Nov	Sat 9 Nov
n Eucharist - Lady		10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement	
▼ Wed 13 Nov	▼ Thurs 14 Nov	▼ Fri 15 Nov	Sat 16 Nov
n Eucharist - Lady		CHURCH WINTER FAYRE 11-3	
▼ Wed 20 Nov	▼ Thurs 21 Nov	▼ Fri 22 Nov	Sat 23 Nov
n Eucharist - Lady		10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement	
▼ Wed 27 Nov	▼ Thurs 28 Nov	▼ Fri 29 Nov	Sat 30 Nov
n Eucharist - Lady		10.30-12 Church Open by arrangement	

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9								10						
11				12		13		14				15		
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25				26				27		28				
29						30		31		32				
33										34				

Solon 178

**Across**

- 1 Nameless devil joins Yankee for exotic food (5)
- 4 Entire WI greets Victor at meeting (9)
- 9 Mend your old well (7)
- 10 Universal soldier? (7)
- 11 The eyes are said to have them (5)
- 13 Drink found in flat territories (5)
- 15 See the city (3)
- 16 Busy letter? (3)
- 17 Conclude hell has no ending (5)
- 19 Cold fresh snack (5)
- 21 No guy is confused about not being old (5)
- 23 A little white lie about character (5)

- 24 Song may be found in backward Bulgaria (3)
- 25 Service found in bottomless boat (3)
- 26 Boat seen going from left to right and back again (5)
- 28 At first little ones can usually make for a substitute (5)
- 29 Altered barcode may be material (7)
- 31 Glenda at noon cavorted in the country (7)
- 33 Burning, he received partial flexibility (9)
- 34 To almost select theme (5)

**Down**

- 1 Pupil studying fish perhaps? (9)
- 2 With undercoat sorted, no exception made to drag through the mud (7)

- 3 Even if this monster loses me (3)
- 4 Definitely gutted taken in by evil poem (5)
- 5 Game ticket (3)
- 6 The Aga mountains? (5)
- 7 Ex PM loses head for Middle Easterner (7)
- 8 Could be like an artesian boot (5)
- 12 A partially enticing covering (5)
- 14 Find pound in bathrobe (5)
- 18 Cracking replacing last drop of gin with fine number (5)
- 19 Basket of fish found on the outskirts of Cromer (5)
- 20 Emergency worker places soldier on origins of major exercise, dispensing intensive care (9)
- 22 Frank could be a centre forward? (7)
- 24 It may throw light on a royal vice (3,4)
- 25 Look back around British insurgent (5)
- 26 This rogue is a card (5)
- 27 Online vegetable returns to university (5)
- 30 One, for example, equals self (3)
- 32 Obtained growth oddly (3)

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

**Answers to October puzzles:**  
**Crossword: Across:** 1 Obstacle, 6 Unpack, 9 Tallow, 10 Chileans, 11 Make haste, 13 Usher, 15 Otiose, 17 Pedant, 18 Rasher, 19 Stigma, 21 Judea, 22 Hereafter, 25 Soft-soap, 26 Mexico, 28 Osprey, 29 Impudent. **Down:** 2 Boa, 3 Tilde, 4 Cow parsley, 5 Excite, 6 Unit, 7 Press gang, 8 Concentrate, 12 Avoirdupois, 14 Weather map, 16 Inspector, 20 Delphi, 23 Foxed, 24 Joey, 27 Can.

**Sudoku:** 485762913/  
362419758/ 917583624/  
124395876/ 659847231/  
873126549/ 538971462/  
291654387/ 746238195

**Just asking:** How do you distinguish between a vision, a dream and a fantasy? (Maybe you can't decide which to have; but sorting out which you have got could be very important—especially if you want to share it.)

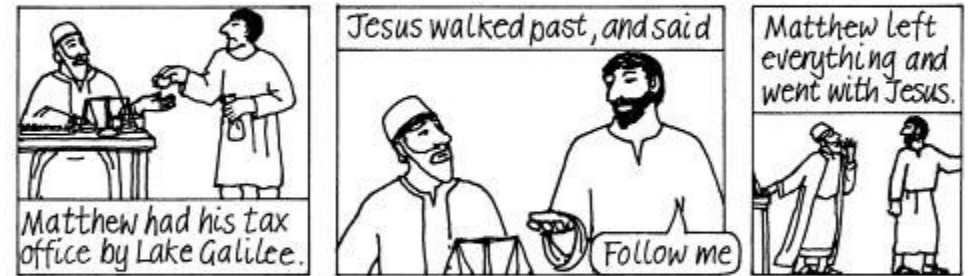
6	4				5			9
	3	8				4		
				2			5	
				3		6	1	
	6		2		9		7	
	7	4		8				
	8			4				
		5				2	4	
4			1				8	3

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 9:9-13, Mk 2:13-15, Lk 5:27-32

The Roman invaders had given the job of collecting their taxes to local Jews who also overcharged, so they were doubly hated.



## Bad People?

It is very tempting to divide both things and people into *good* and *bad*. "Roman" tax collectors were certainly not popular with the people of occupied countries. (Jewish Temple tax collectors were not popular; and maybe being an HMRC tax collector in 2024 is not the easiest profession to declare at a party.) The system seems to have been that these Roman agents were not paid, and earned their living by topping up the tax. Being unpopular does not mean being bad: a Government has to collect taxes to fund government; and Roman government was not bad by the standards of the time. Tax collectors were not alone in collaborating with the Romans: the Temple leaders collaborated.

From the point of view of the rule-observing Pharisees, *bad people* were people who didn't keep the rules (and make a public display of keeping the rules). As Jesus said on other occasions, He was not against having rules. He referenced the Ten Commandments as a good guide to good behaviour. His message was that **LOVE** is the crucial thing [dwell on the word crucial ("cross") and its origins], and love isn't a matter of rule books and box ticking. Sometimes, love seems to involve breaking conventional rules: I recall going through a red light because my back-seat passenger was starting an epileptic fit.

That last reflection does prompt a comment on Jesus' remark that only sick people need doctors. As others have said in recent years, we claim to have a national *health* service, not a sickness service. It follows that doctors ought to be a resource for staying well, and not just a resource for handling illness.

And so to the last of the cartoon pictures. Given the reality that all have sinned, the people who need help from Jesus include the apparently good, the apparently bad, and any folk who make themselves look good but act bad or fail to act good. Fairly comprehensive. One final comment on the good/bad distinction: It is a mistake to run so far from the good/bad (white/black) distinction that everything is grey; but when you look at the life histories of some people with the bad label, you do think about that other popular saying: **There, but for the grace of God, go I.** When one of the Sunday School kids (many years ago) pocketed some of the collection, we were concerned...but we were aware that his father and eldest brother were in prison.

## Welcome to USPG – United Society Partners in the Gospel.

We are the Anglican mission agency that partners with churches worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.

USPG has three strategic aims: Rethinking Mission, Energising Church and Championing Justice.

We bring people together from different parts of the global Church in mutually enriching conversation and profound encounters, to deepen faith in Jesus Christ. We strive to make connections between the churches of the Anglican Communion to deepen bonds of affection and learn from each other in rich exchange. We promote education and leadership and strengthen the unity and capacity of the Anglican Church. We also accompany Anglican churches across the world as they form communities of hope and resistance in the struggles associated with climate change, migration, gender, the human rights of indigenous people and inter-religious living.



This year's USPG Harvest Project is based in Zululand, and tackles food insecurity. It carries all the hallmarks of USPG initiatives: partnership with local people, understanding local realities and possibilities, immediate action for sustained improvement building on local skills, highlighting one individual or family to explain the project. Research "Harvesting Hope in Zululand". You can help.

## Younger Readers Page: Is being untidy ever a good thing?



Mrs Brown had strong views on things, and she liked to say it as she saw it. So when her 8 year old daughter left for school leaving her bedroom in a bit of a mess, the daughter was not really surprised that Mrs Brown spent the first hour after she had got back from school talking about NEVER LEAVING THINGS UNTIDY!!!! Then Mrs Brown told the girl that the next door neighbour wanted a word with Mrs Brown, so, while she was next door PLEASE WOULD THE DAUGHTER

TIDY EVERYTHING UP!!!!

Eleanor took everything her mother said very seriously. She wasn't brave enough to explore what her mother "meant". If Mum said nothing to be left lying around, Mum must mean nothing was to be left lying around. So she tidied her own room very firmly: pushing everything into draws and cupboards. Nothing was left on view.....which was to prove a problem when, later on, she wanted to find her pyjamas. Then, since Mrs Brown was still next door, Eleanor wandered down to the kitchen. The kitchen looked very untidy: Mrs Brown had dumped all the ingredients for the evening meal and all the other things needed on the table and the draining board. Eleanor had no idea what went where, but what mattered was that nothing should be seen. So Eleanor put everything into a big empty cardboard box that happened to be lying there. The box was now the only untidy thing in the kitchen. So, with a lot of hard work, she got the box outside. By now it was raining heavily..... No meal that evening.

When it comes to "tidying the garden", please think about whether the stuff that looks untidy might be home and/or food supply for a large number of creatures - especially during the Winter when food and shelter are in short supply. Being tidy is not always being good.

Shirley Methodist Church  
Eldon Avenue, Croydon CR0 8SD  
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL  
6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

Local schools, churches, community groups and businesses are being invited to provide and decorate a 3ft – 9ft, real or artificial, Christmas Tree (with lights – power provided if needed). The theme is being left entirely to the tree provider: perhaps something topical/seasonal, or a theme that reflects the nature of the contributing group or organisation. Tree decoration/preparation will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> (10am- 7pm)

The Festival opens to the public on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> (11am – 6pm), Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> (10am – 4pm) and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December (Noon – 5pm). Refreshments will be available to purchase in the Christmas Café throughout the weekend.

The Festival closes with a special Carol Service "**Carols Round the Trees**" commencing at 5.00pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>. Admission is **FREE** but there will be collecting boxes placed around the Church for donations, which will be given to the **chosen charity THE ALZIMERS SOCIETY**.

Why not combine the Churches Together Quiet Day (see page 8 of this magazine) with a visit to the Christmas Tree Festival, to make a special weekend?

Some parts of the Old Testament are marked/scarred by an obsession with obliterating every special place and special activity that was seen as challenging the vision of God as tucked up securely in the Temple in Jerusalem. ("*He was quite a good king, BUT he did not destroy the high places!!!*") Christian history is marked/scarred by an obsession with rescuing the Christian Christmas from any signs of the pagan Christmas - despite the reality that Christians pinched a pagan festival to celebrate the Birth that was in all probability not on December 25<sup>th</sup>. I respect the Jehovah's Witness determination to ignore Christmas; but I prefer the churches' willingness to bring together Incarnation theology and the widespread human inclination towards all kinds of December/January celebration. After all, God Incarnate is about the inevitably messy business of God's full involvement in human kind and its celebration and mourning, and getting on with life individually and communally.



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

**Please note that readings may change**

**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.

**Sunday 17 November: 2nd Sunday before Advent**

**Daniel 12: 1-3:** Those who put others on the right path to life will glow like stars for ever.

**Psalms 16:** Ever since you took my hand, I'm on the right way.

**Hebrews 10: 11-25:** It was a perfect sacrifice by a perfect person to perfect some very imperfect people.

**Mark 13: 1-8:** Watch out for doomsday deceivers!

**Sunday 24 November: Christ the King**

**Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14:** His rule would be for ever, never ending.

**Psalms 93:** Beauty and Holy mark your palace rule.

**Revelation 1: 4b-8:** Those who mocked and killed him, will see him.

**John 18: 33-37:** I'm not the world's kind of king.



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

Dan Pretty	David Lawn	Bishop Christopher
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	Verity Johnson
Yvonne Sussex	Viv Baracliffe	Jill Hollamby
Mike Wilkins	Livingston Dallas	Shirley Ashdown
Yvonne Harris	Lindsay Morgan	Maureen Fenner
Ellen Maden	Paul Oates	Brian Jacobs
Bill Gibson	Heather Orton	Doreen Offergelt
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 [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.**

Answers to "Can you identify the painters?" in October magazine: A. Flatford Mill by John Constable; B. Girl with a balloon by Banksy; C. Fighting Temeraire by J M H Turner; D. Ophelia by Jean Millais; E. The Lady of Shallot by J W Waterhouse; F. Christ of St John of the Cross by Salvador Dali. (The last of these is at the back of our church - though many people seem not to have noticed it.)

Try these London tourist highlights: -



## 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)

### Fear

*Fear of the future is a waste of the present.*

*Fear not tomorrow. God is already there.*

*If you fear that people will know about it, don't do 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

## Fear

*If you are not afraid to face the music, you may some day lead the band.*

*Courage is not the absence of fear, but the conquest of it.*

*Remember you are your own doctor when it comes to curing cold feed.*

## 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

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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 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)