

# St George the Martyr Shirley



## Christ in the Community

Annunciation: Mary gets the Message



**March 2026**

**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.

### Little Dragons Toddler Group St George's: Monday mornings in term time 9.30-11.30

All under 5's with their parents/ carers welcome  
Mary Brown 07704311523  
marybrown250@gmail.com

### 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

### Slimming World

**Shirley**  
**St George's Church Hall:**  
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Cheryl  
07947 185629

*Need a helping hand or is the garden getting too much? **Farthing Garden Services** is a friendly, local gardening service offering reliable maintenance, lawn care, hedge cutting and seasonal tidy-ups. For regular visits or one-off help, contact James - 07561559399 / [james@farthing-gardens.com](mailto:james@farthing-gardens.com)*

# 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  
020 8654 8747 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)**

**Palm Sunday 29th March**



## March 2026 - News from the Palace

By the time you receive this edition of the church magazine, Lent will be already upon us.

As we read in the Gospels, Lent is the time when we remember Jesus' temptations in the wilderness. Jesus had to come to terms with what sort of Messiah he was to be. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke reminds us of the temptations Jesus experienced. If Jesus was really the Son of God, so the devil reminds him, turn the stones into bread. Ah! What about jumping off the highest part of the Jerusalem Temple. God will send a legion of angels to save you! As we know, Jesus resisted these temptations. I hope you won't be tempted to try to prove God in these ways! Lent is the time when we either give something up e.g. smoking, vaping, drinking alcohol, chocolate; or, perhaps more constructively, take something up, for example reading your Bible more, doing some form of exercise to build up your fitness, or joining the Study group taking place on Monday evenings during Lent..

One Lenten discipline you may consider is to go on a pilgrimage. You don't have to travel a long way or necessarily walk miles and miles. Why not go on pilgrimage to one of Britain's Cathedrals. Catch a train from Bromley South station direct to Canterbury Cathedral. Maybe visit St Alban's, direct from East Croydon station. Winchester is easily reached from East Croydon via Clapham Junction.

I hope you may consider volunteering during Lent (and beyond!) On Sunday 1 March we will be hearing stories from those who are already volunteering in church. We need more people to volunteer, as so many tasks are falling on the same people. We need helpers with hospitality i.e. tea and coffee rota. Then there is using your gifts in church: intercessors, servers around the altar. Maybe fundraising for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal. Then why not use your practical DIY skills around the church building and hall.

Whatever you decide to take up or let go this Lent I hope you will be richly blessed in your exercises and above all draw closer to God, and see him more clearly in the process. May you all have a Good Lent.

**Ray Wheeler (Reader)** writing from 88 Palace View

## GLORY - Please explain

On the day I write this, the word GLORY appears 17 times in the Morning Prayer service and 10 times in the Evening Prayer service. The word "GLORY is mentioned about 600 times in the Bible, although this number differs depending on the Bible translation. Most of the verses that talk about GLORY highlight God's splendour, the declaration of His majesty through creation, His holiness, the splendour revealed through Jesus, and the call for believers to live for God's magnificence: to GLORIFY God. We also talk about "Giving God the GLORY - which sounds slightly odd! "I'm just going to improve the sunrise"? And worth remembering that the most common representation of Jesus is naked, nailed to a cross, and "dead": not the sort of situation you immediately connect with GLO- RY.....unless you remember what Jesus himself said about the crucifixion.

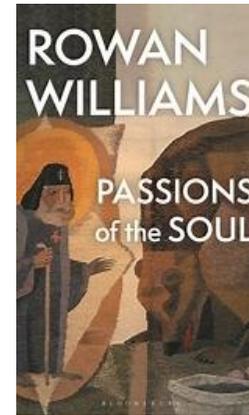
The Hebrew word for glory is קָבוֹד (kabowd). It encompasses meanings such as honour, splendour, respect, and even great weight. The term reflects not only a sense of glory but also a weightiness, indicating the significance and presence of something esteemed. In Greek, GLORY is δόξα (dóksa) literally "what evokes good opinion, i.e. that something has inherent, intrinsic worth" . Latin is, of course, Gloria: *Gloria in excelsis Deo (Glory to God in the highest)*.



GLORY is about the wow factor: not something you give to God, rather what God always has. As to glimpses of it, I doubt you can see the East window of Coventry Cathedral for the first time without experiencing it...or the Spring flowers seen through the plain glass window of a small South Downs church during early Communion....or the homeless man decorating London Bridge station with abandoned flower shop flowers, for the benefit of the early

morning commuters. And the response to GLORY is both to say thank you, and to "do wow" in your own modest way; the wow of the right word, the right act, the right way of being present, at the right time for the person who needs that.

## Rowan Williams: Passions of the Soul



"Passion" is one of those multi-purpose English words. This is well illustrated by the Bible book "Song of Songs", where the passion between a woman and a man is used as an allegory for the passion between women and men and God. When Williams writes: "*most of us will not start with much sense of what meditation on the eternal Logos might have meant for an Alexandrian ascetic in the third Christian century*", you may think "I'm not likely to be passionate about this book"!

It is actually well worth reading. If you half believe me, but doubt, you can borrow it from me. Alongside all his scholarship and Greek quotations, Williams (former Archbishop) is very good at down-to-earth comments that everyone can understand, For example, *If you don't grow, you shrink.* "*We are made, unlikely as it sounds, for seeing and sharing glory.*" "*You will no longer see the world as either a jungle or a supermarket.*" On the persecution of the early Christian writers, he points out that very ordinary people (perhaps slaves) were saying to the Emperor: I'll pay your taxes, and obey (most of) your laws; but Jesus is my real boss, and I won't do your religious stuff or fight in your army. (Williams also points out that, later on, the now powerful Church failed to respect the individual conscience. Maybe power does corrupt.)

A lot of the book is about the Beatitudes and the key vices and virtues. On living up to Jesus standards, Williams says, "*We are likely to judge ourselves as either total successes or total failures, being in both cases totally wrong.*" Repent (Peter), don't despair (Judas). He emphasises trying to grasp both Jesus the example, and Jesus God incarnate.

On life in this world and the next, Williams (in line with the grow or shrink quote), makes the very powerful point [compare and contrast "Rest Eternal"] "*that the answer to our human need and longing is the reality that is never exhausted, understood and possessed.*" In line with C S Lewis in "The Last Battle", Williams sees life, now and then, as "*At every stage something that is wonderful turns into something that is more wonderful.*"

**The road not taken.....the road less travelled by...  
and that has made all the difference**

If you haven't read, or haven't read recently, Robert Frost's 1920 poem "The road not taken", please put the magazine down and look up the poem. It was read at Margaret Ziolek's funeral in January, and attracted some attention. It is a favourite of mine. Margaret, like many of us, made choices in her life which were of lasting importance; and the poem reminds us of the significance of choices. But you can read into the poem the philosophy that the consequences (foreseen or not foreseen) of choices are permanent and inevitable. I'm not sure this is what Robert Frost meant, If he did mean that, I think he was wrong.

This is big stuff. Some religious (and some non-religious) people think that choices and consequences are all pre-ordained: that everything happens because that is the way things are, or that is what God has dictated. That view implies that really choice is non-existent...and that being good and being bad are equally impossible. I hope that most atheists and most believers, poised with a hammer and the possibility of hitting either the nail or the neighbour, would concede that they do have a choice. Lots of choices are constrained by resources and influenced by circumstances. **But choice remains.**

Robert Frost emphasises the option of making choices outside the mainstream, less popular, perhaps more risky. It is unlikely that anyone can make major life choices on the firm basis of full awareness of all the shorter term and longer term/ultimate consequences. Shakespeare's Macbeth said: "I am in blood stepp'd in so far, that, should I wade no more, returning were as tedious as go o'er". No place for redemption? Once a criminal, always a criminal. Once [near] perfect, always [near] perfect. The reality is that, having made one choice, you can later make a different choice. In becoming a teacher, Margaret made a significant (and very successful) career change; and career changes have become more common as "for life" jobs become less common. [Next month, a note on Vocation.]

Becoming deaf might seem to shut down the choice of a life in music. From Beethoven onwards, there are plenty of examples to say otherwise. Someone who had chosen the single life can successfully marry. The one-time atheist can become a preacher (and vice versa!). In short, the first choice does not have to be the last choice. In Frost terms, way/road one can be followed by a different way/road. Choices remain.

**Churches Together in Shirley**

St John's with All Saints

St George's

West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church



Our Lady's

Church of God Apostolic

Shrublands Christian Fellowship

Shirley Methodist

**Churches Together in Shirley**

**CTIS Prayers at 7 30 p.m. on Thursday March 12th, followed by CTIS AGM, at West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church. <https://zoom.us/j/98752212148?pwd=zVu6xxwhWMKHmfqtZQOgE4MaNGBExj.1> Meeting ID: 987 5221 2148 Passcode: 180663 for those who would like to join us online We hope to circulate papers in advance of the meeting: contact [dunaigh2@btinternet.com](mailto:dunaigh2@btinternet.com) if you would like to receive these, and are not on our usual circulation list.**

**A prayer to share**

*Lord, Help us to value ourselves.  
We are unique in what we need and in what we can give.  
Help us to value others,  
They too are unique in their needing and their giving.  
Help us to value our relationships with others.  
We need them, as they need us.  
We can do good on our own.  
We can do more good with others:  
Learning from them;  
Living for them—because in them is God, as God is in us.  
Amen.*

**Birds seen in or from a Shirley garden 1n 2026: now 28 species.**

## Feed the birds or harm the birds?



There has been controversy recently about the widespread habit of feeding the garden birds. There are five areas of controversy: 1) feeding small birds (and only birds) versus feeding all birds and putting up with squirrels and foxes and rats cashing in on the bird-feeding; 2) providing bird food versus majoring in growing berries, seed-bearing plants, and generally

cultivating your space to encourage insects, worms, etc that birds can eat; 3) bird-feeding which encourages some bird species and not others and therefore gives the former an unfair advantage; 4) failing to refresh water and keep seed containers etc clean, and so spreading infections - to which some species are more vulnerable than others; 5) feeding inconsistently, so that birds come to rely on a food supply that is not reliable.

None of the controversies is without basis; but the danger of over-rating the negatives is that birds which have become increasingly dependent on us, as their feeding opportunities are diminished by concreting, decking, smaller gardens, etc. suffer the diminution of feeding choices with nothing to compensate. You need to gear your choices to your opportunities and resources; but I suggest: 1) Aim for small birds only AND more generally accessible feeding opportunities, be selective with "scraps", and tidy up if necessary; 2) garden seasonably for wildlife as well as providing bought food throughout the year; 3) nuts and seed and fatballs/squares and mealworms will between them cater for most garden birds; 4) Hygiene does matter, really matter, although the birds that poop in their drinking water seem blissfully unaware of this; 5) There is nothing wrong with occasional feeding, but if you make a habit of feeding, please aim to make this a regular habit. Obviously, Winter is the hardest time, and Winter -only feeding is an option.

You probably don't want to feed cats with birds, so keep this in mind when siting bird feeders. You will soon notice where cats lurk.

## Some notes for you to note

- ♥ **Deadline for the April magazine, Sunday March 22nd.**
- ♥ **The Bible Reading Group: Monday evenings 7 30 p.m. to 8 10 p.m. On Zoom.** See notes on the parish website. We are reading the parables (picture/action stories) of the Old and New Testaments" - commentary available for everyone who would like to join us. Regular and occasional new members both welcome. Parables are intended to make a point in a way that simply telling it as it is sometimes fails to do. You remember parables. The idea for "doing" parables" came from one of our long-standing members who no longer lives in Shirley, and is getting on in years but still very much engaged.
- **Book Reading Group:** The current reading list is: Divine Windows by David Gregory, Reflected in Nature by Claire Gregory, Donkey Roads and Camel Treks by Gemma Simmonds, Attentive to God by Tony Horsfall, and Dreaming of a Green Christmas by Olivia Warburton. Why not join us in exploring this rich variety of books?

### Is it worth the effort? (Christian Aid)

"Our Year of Impact: April 2024 to March 2025" was published by Christian Aid at the end of January this year. It celebrated 463 projects in 28 countries, with £77m spent and over 16 million people helped. It marked the end of Sarah Mullally's Chairmanship as she became Archbishop of Canterbury. Negatives included a steep fall in institutional support, e.g. Governments switching from overseas aid to armaments, and 30 African countries having to spend more on servicing debt than on health care. As you read the detail, you can't help noticing that a great deal of CA money has to be spent on emergency relief rather than long-term resilience building; and that the investment in previous decades is often undermined by war and climate change: buildings and crops destroyed, people moved or killed, water and other resources terminated. Now it usually doesn't make sense to spend 3 years building a railway on a cliff that will have collapsed within 5 years! *But do we refuse to operate on anyone over 65, or not marry over 40, or avoid having children because they will die in due course??* I side with the 85 year old getting Confirmed, who said "I'm investing in now and for ever!!"

### Do it yourself parables: The two shop-keepers



At opposite ends of the small town main street were two small shops. Karim owned one. Hazzri owned the other one, The white British customers who didn't know them better, thought of them as "Indian or something". Actually, Karim came from Pakistan and Hazzri from Bangladesh. (Yes I know both names are Arabic.) If anyone wondered about their religion (and most people were not really interested in either the shopkeeper's religion or their own religion), the initial assumption was Muslim. Actually, Karim was non-practising Hindu, and Hazzri non-practising Buddhist.... If you went by their family majority beliefs. The two shops had it in common that they were small, multi-purpose, open all hours, and not going to make anyone wealthy. Both shop-keepers had unpaid wives and a child.

Karim had a keen focus on profit margins, what was eye-catching, and what might sell in large quantities. He was purposefully polite to his customers, but not really interested in them other than as customers. If they wanted a chat, he gently encouraged them to find someone else to chat to, and to chat away from the shop. The old lady (he never knew her name) who had come twice a day to chat and to buy little or nothing had been gently encouraged to go to the shop at the other end of the road. (It had crossed Karim's mind that if Hazzri had a shop full of talkative non-shoppers, the impatient would-be buyers might come to him.)

Hazzri was a less focussed businessman. He had been known to leave his shop untended to run after an old lady who had left her purse behind. He didn't ask his customers to tell their names and their problems; but if they volunteered their names he wrote them down, and if they told him their problems he tried to remember...and was sometimes able to suggest a source of help. He tried—not always successfully—to stock what people asked about. Going over and above, he sometimes slipped a free treat into the sparsely loaded basket that reflected the sparsely loaded purse. He had to discourage theft; but he managed to distinguish Martin Brown, who stole, from Margaret Green, who forgot to pay.

### Annunciation: a universal experience

We are lucky in Shirley. The Roman Catholic member of our Churches Together in Shirley community is *Our Lady of the Annunciation*. Otherwise, most of us would reach March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation, not having heard the word annunciation for 12 months, and wondering why Christians have to use unfamiliar Latin instead of plain English. *Nuntius* is Latin for Messenger. *An-nunciatus* means making known. (For bonus points: the papal church ambassadors are called *nuncios*—announcers.) So, annunciation is announcement.

March 25th celebrates the announcement to the (perhaps teenage) Mary by an angel of her forthcoming pregnancy. Not what Mary and Joseph had been expecting, since their engagement had not gone beyond the exchanging of promises. The Bible has a surprising number of unexpected pregnancy announcements/annunciations - often unexpected because the mum-to-be was getting too old for that sort of thing: Hannah and baby Samuel, Sarah and baby Isaac, Elizabeth and baby John. Like Elizabeth and Zechariah, whose announcement of a forthcoming birth included the child's name, Hosea was given the names for two of his children: uncomfortable names meaning "Not loved" and "Not my people". Isaiah's son's announced name was equally uncomfortable: "Quick to the plunder".

Talking of the prophets prompts the reflection that each and every one of the prophets had an annunciation: the message that something radical would happen inside them to change them so that they could change the wider world. Since they were men, this was sometimes expressed as swallowing something in order to give birth to change. The same thing happened to John, the writer of the Book of Revelation: he swallowed the scroll given to him by the angel to enable him to give birth to his vision of God's Kingdom.

However, it doesn't stop there. As Christian disciples, we are called to take in the Message in order to give birth to the witness that will (however modestly to our seeing) change the world. In the secular/political sphere, the same sort of thing could be said for disciples of Chairman Mao swallowing his Little Book, or the disciples of Karl Marx or Adolph Hitler and the doctrinal theses they swallowed. I like to think the annunciation and birthing of Christianity are more positive realities.

**Poetry Page: : Annunciation to Mary by Rainer Maria Rilke**

*The angel's entrance (you must realize) was not what made her frightened. The surprise he gave her by his coming was no more than sun or moon-beam stirring on the floor would give another, — she had long since grown used to the form that angels wear, descending; never imaging this coming-down was hard for them. (O it's past comprehending, how pure she was. Did not one day, a hind that rested in a wood, watchfully staring, feel her deep influence, and did it not conceive the unicorn, then, without pairing, the pure beast, beast which light begot, — ) No, not to see him enter, but to find the youthful angel's countenance inclined so near to her; that when he looked, and she looked up at him, their looks so merged in one the world outside grew vacant, suddenly, and all things being seen, endured and done were crowded into them: just she and he eye and its pasture, visions and its view, here at the point and at this point alone: - see, this arouses fear. Such fear both knew.*



Footnote: Why are angels “male”?

**That odd business of Praying; 174 : GUILTY!!!!!!!!!!.**

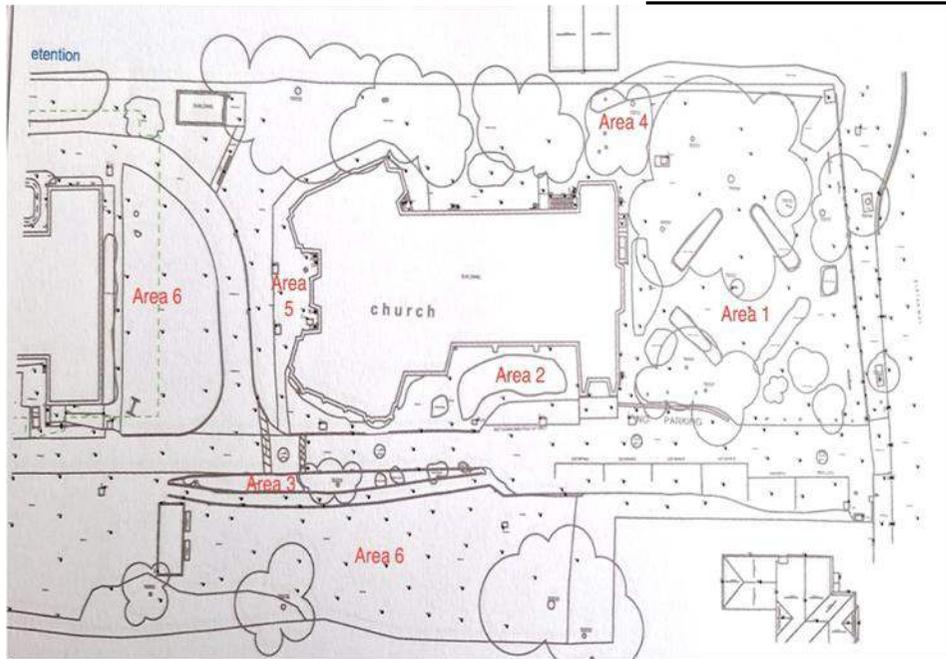


A newcomer to a Church of England morning service might think we are a bit obsessed with guilt... And wonder whether the typical church member has really managed to pack in enough sin on Sunday morning before church, and then during the service, to justify the guilt complex. If you go to church twice on Sunday, you will add to your guilt list... and if you go

every day.... All this is quite apart from any separate confession to a priest or to a soul friend. In secular life too guilt looms large. Collectively and individually, we are urged to own up to guilt for climate change, slavery, poverty, social inequality, etc. Individually, if we have any sort of known responsibility for anything, media and social media urge confession of guilt and apology for anything that goes amiss. The blame culture. Somewhere in the background is the notion of “original sin”: individual and collective guilt for Adam and Eve messing up in the Garden of Eden. A work colleague said of a mutual colleague: *“That woman is always apologising for being alive!”*

Pity the sportsman or woman always feeling guilty for not coming first, for scoring only one goal, for not getting a century, for getting only one “hole in one”! Pity the child whose parents will not settle for anything less than “top of the class by a large margin”!

Our prayers need to reflect the two realities: we are saints **and** sinners. We are invited to celebrate the good we have thought, said and done; as well as recognising the good we failed to do, and the bad we have done. You can see recognition of this mixed reality in St Paul's letters. Maybe the church services ought to offer formally time for reflection on the good stuff as well time for reflection on the bad stuff. We can certainly do this in our private prayers. God maybe takes a more balanced view of us than we take of ourselves..and He loves us despite and because.



The church grounds are structured around six interlinked areas:

1. Memorial Garden (front of church)
2. South Side Memorial Garden
3. Bible Bed (faith-based planting area)
4. North Side – Wildlife Area
5. West-Facing Rear Area – Wildflower Area
6. South and Church Hall Fields

This sketch from the Land Management Plan (how we, collectively and individually, look after the church grounds not built on) is partly a picture of what we have now, and partly a statement about changes planned. It is subject to what we might need to do because of future building works. Not necessarily what we want, but we might have to move the Bible Bed over to the fence - to widen the roadway. We don't own the vicarage land or the land beside the former vicarage. This is owned by Southwark Diocese. *"The gardens surrounding the church express a harmony between formal care and wild creation, uniting remembrance, faith, and biodiversity. Together, these areas form a landscape celebrating God's creation through both cultivated beauty and living habitat."* **OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND OPPORTUNITY.**

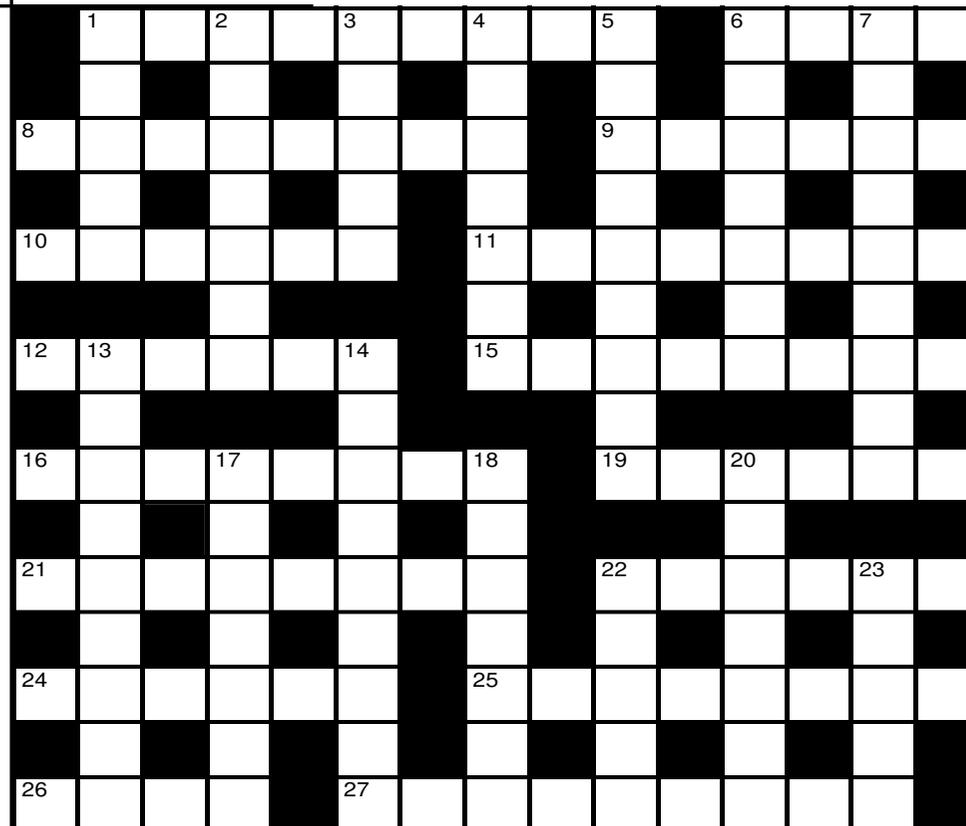
## CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH 2026

▼ Morning Prayer:

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR MARCH 2026			Dates
Sun 1 Mar LENT 2	▼ Mon 2 Mar	▼ Tue 3 Mar	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group 7.30pm Lent Group		10.00am 11.30am Chapel
Sun 8 Mar LENT 3	▼ Mon 9 Mar	▼ Tue 10 Mar	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group 7.30pm Lent Group		10.00am 11.30am Chapel
Sun 15 Mar MOTHERING SUNDAY	▼ Mon 16 Mar	▼ Tue 17 Mar	▼
10.00 All-Age Sung Eucharist with Church Parade	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group 7.30pm Lent Group		10.00am 11.30am Chapel
Sun 22 Mar PASSION SUNDAY	▼ Mon 23 Mar	▼ Tue 24 Mar	▼
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 9.30-11.30am Little Dragons 7.30pm Bible Reading Group 7.30pm Lent Group		10.00am 11.30am Chapel
Sun 29 Mar PALM SUNDAY	▼ Mon 30 Mar	▼ Tue 31 Mar	
10.00 Sung Eucharist	10.30am-12.00 Pop-In 7.30pm Bible Reading Group		

<b>for you Diary:</b> Maundy Thursday - April 2 <sup>nd</sup> Good Friday - April 3 <sup>rd</sup> Easter Sunday - April 5 <sup>th</sup> Church Quiz Night - April 25 <sup>th</sup> Patronal Sunday - April 26 <sup>th</sup>			
Wed 4 Mar	▼ Thurs 5 Mar	▼ Fri 6 Mar	Sat 7 Mar
Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady			
Wed 11 Mar	▼ Thurs 12 Mar	▼ Fri 13 Mar	Sat 14 Mar
Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady			
Wed 18 Mar	▼ Thurs 19 Mar	▼ Fri 20 Mar	Sat 21 Mar
Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady	OWPS Visit Church -pm (Orchard Way Primary School)		
Wed 25 Mar	▼ Thurs 26 Mar	▼ Fri 27 Mar	Sat 28 Mar
Church Cleaning Eucharist - Lady			



Solon 194

**Across**

- 1 Recycled friend meets under plain canopy in church (9)
- 6 See 18 Down
- 8 Somehow rarifies holy homes (8)
- 9 Leaders of behavioural studies leaving base rate variation provide a way to cause a fizz (6)
- 10 Make up your mind about detectives in flower (6)
- 11 Throwing rotten tofu in river isn't working (3,2,3)
- 12 Warden has right temper (6)
- 15 Eccentric artist knew it could be worn (8)
- 16 Swan to receive device (6)

19Swan to receive device (6)

- 21 Just over 2 pounds after Juliet in full (8)
- 22 Player has no smell at first (6)
- 24 Moisten a politician in study (6)
- 25 Caterer takes top of egg to reproduce (8)
- 26 Macho boss? (4)
- 27 A green SLR could provide photography accessories (9)

**Down**

- 1 Tender exchanges new leader for a follower in case on altar (5)
- 2 Metal in Germany is at the forefront (7)
- 3 Clerical garb found in aerodynamic engineering (5)

- 4 Church supporter found in mixed odourless cash books (7)
- 5 Close call for defective Rh antigen (4,5)
- 6 Not a lot when Verity, bereft of IT, flew without tail end (4,3)
- 7 Unwilling when US highway runs out (9)
- 13 Nice night with six-footer and leading article first makes for a payee (9)
- 14 Switch back mountains (9)
- 17 Old robber has a measure of accommodation (7)
- 18/6A Funnily, I hum all over in this clerical garb (7,4)
- 20 See father leave edited fire codes (7)
- 22 Get an award after November (5)
- 23 Places quotes when read out (5)

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

**Answers to February puzzles:-  
Crossword:**

**Across:** 7 Frightful, 8 Alive, 10 Begin, 11 Inquiring, 12 Eliminate, 13 Awful, 15 Tight, 17 Tides, 21 Uncut, 23 Unmeaning, 25 Bowlegged, 27 Wagon, 28 Wafer, 29 Neurology.

**Down:** 1 Linguistic, 2 Changing, 3 Africa, 4 Eloquent, 5 Patina, 6 Hi-fi, 7 Fabled, 9 Engulf, 14 Fishing rod, 16 Trudging, 18 Deadwood, 19 Sunbow, 20 Agency, 22 Theory, 24 Medium, 26 Wife.

**Sudoku:** 483521679/  
526789341/ 197643258/  
318462795/ 274915836/  
965378412/ 859237164/  
631854927/ 742196583

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

*I am not bad - tempered. It's just that I can't stand traffic, being kept waiting, crowds, loud music, people who talk too much, people who won't listen, unruly kids, advertisements, people yawning when I'm talking, barking dogs, people who interrupt me when I'm talking, those who get in my way, noisy teenagers, pop music..*

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus told a story to help his disciples to be ready for the end of time. 'A rich man was about to go on a journey...'

He gave his servants money to look after, depending on what they could do.

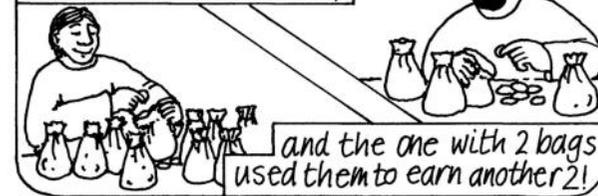


He gave 5 bags of coins to the first, 2 to the second, and 1 to the third.

As soon as he had gone, the first two servants started to work.



The one with 5 bags of coins used them to earn 5 more,



and the one with 2 bags used them to earn another 2!

The third servant dug a hole and buried his bag.



When the master came back, he called his servants to him...



The first two showed him they had doubled his money, and he was very happy with them.



You are a hard man who expects us to work. I was afraid so I just hid it.

If you knew what I expected, why didn't you do it?



Get out of here!



**Use it or lose it**

Look at Luke 19: 11-17, as well as Matthew 25: 14-39, and note the differences. The take-away messages from the Matthew story are:- (1) We have different abilities in terms of what we can handle successfully; and, although this maybe doesn't leap out of the page here, God doesn't expect us to do more than we are able to do. Maybe reflect on the monk who recognised that he really wasn't much good at doing illuminated manuscripts, or preaching, or extempore prayer, and offered his juggling skills before the altar. (2) We have different resources and opportunities. (3) We need to use what we have to the best of our ability. (4) We have a responsibility for recognising and encouraging what other people have to offer. Did the successful servants give any advice to the one who just buried what he had?

Across the two parables, we pick up the message that money, skills, knowledge, etc carry with them responsibilities: whether we have lots of them or a little.



One of my churchwardens is a stickler for 'Health and Safety'...

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 10 - 16:** We shall need people to deliver (but not collect) envelopes, and people to host (temporarily) envelopes returned by those who have received them. Please let Brian McGinnis, Pauline Russell or Helen Aylward know if you can help: the system depends on local delivery being matched by local hosting. Coffee mornings, teas, and sponsored activities also welcome. Every little helps greatly.

**I want to be like.....**



Role models are something we all know at least a little about - being one (consciously or otherwise), having one (consciously or otherwise), hearing about people who are or have been role models or about being encouraged to be good models or criticised for being bad models, When "successful" people are being interviewed, they quite often talk about someone who provided them with an example to follow. The person

hailed out for getting it wrong will sometimes say that someone close to them setting a bad example helped them downhill: "Life father, like son!"

The Bible Walk (Old and New Testaments) urges us to follow and to set good examples. For example: "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm." – Proverbs 13:20; and "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'" – 1 Corinthians 15:33. St Paul is not afraid to invite people to copy him - though he is modest enough to add (in effect) "not in everything". The Good Christian is "Christ-like." However, and this is very important, the Bible also encourages us to be ourselves, because we are each a unique individual—personally known to, and loved by, God. Ephesians 2.19 tells us (challengingly) that **You are God's masterpiece!** Created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do. Catherine of Siena said "Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire". (Male or female) you are a unique person with a unique purpose,



So role-modelling is not about exact copying/ mirror-image being. It is about learning from someone else or some other people, in order to be yourself—your own person/ God's own person. Every great musician, writer, artist, sportsperson, doctor, etc, learned from others; but learned to be themselves, not how to be a role model photo copy. There are lots of books on role-modelling—£6 to £100, Not sure I would recommend any of them. Be your best, and be humble enough to recognise you could do better, should do it.

**.One person wrote all of these lines. Can you name that person?**

*And all the world, oh Ham, may curse the hour when you were born; Because of you, the Ark must sail without the Unicorn.*

*Love's as hard as nails, Love is nails..*

*Here lies one who lived for others; Now she has peace. And so have they.*

*And whether it was more like playing with a thunderstorm or playing with a kitten Lucy could never make up her mind.*

*My endlessly recurring temptation; neither to dive nor swim nor float, but only dabble and splash.*

*Now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever and ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.*

*Look at yon butterfly. If it swallowed all Hell, Hell would no be big enough to do it any harm or to have any taste.*

*Here and here only in all time the myth must have become fact, the Word, flesh; God, Man. This is not a religion, not a philosophy. It is the summing up and the actuality of them all.*

*Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.*

*The consuming fire Himself, the Love that made the worlds, persistent as the artist's love for his work and despotic as a man's love for a child, jealous, inexorable, exacting as love between the sexes.*

*God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.*

**Maybe a Smile****How God works**

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left-handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

**How many words does it take?**

Pythagorean Theorem – 24 words

Lord's Prayer – 66 words

Archimedes' Principle – 67 words

Ten Commandments – 179 words

Shakespeare's 'To be, or not to be' soliloquy – 260 words

Churchill's speech 'We Shall Fight on the Beaches' - 308 words

US Constitution with all 27 Amendments – 7,818 words

EU regulations on the sale of cabbages – 26,911 words

Puts things into perspective, doesn't it?

**Ask children about angels – and this is what you get!**

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. – Daniel, age 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado. – Reagan, age 10

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. – Sara, age 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and His Son, who's a very good carpenter. – Jared, age 8

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. – Antonio, age 9

**Coming and going** 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.

## Sunday Readings for March (Message Version)

### Sunday March 1st: Lent 2

**Genesis 12: 1-4a:** All the families of the earth will be blessed through you.

**Psalms 121:** I look up to the mountains.

**Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17:** Sheer gift.

**John 3: 1-17:** This is how much God loved the world.

### Sunday March 8th: Lent 3

**Exodus 17: 1-7:** Is God here with us, or not?"

**Psalms 95:** Raise the roof for the Rock who saved us.

**Romans 5: 1-11:** We throw open our doors to God.

**John 4: 5-42:** You miss the forest for the trees.

### Sunday March 15th: Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)

**1 Samuel 16: 1-13:** Fill your flask with anointing oil, and get going.

**Psalms 23:** I'm back home in the house of God.

**Ephesians 5: 8-14:** So no more stumbling around. Get on with it!

**John 9:** How did he open your eyes?

### Sunday March 22nd: Lent 5 (Passion Sunday)

**Ezekiel 37: 1-14:** Master God, only you know that.

**Psalms 130:** Help, God—I've hit rock bottom!

**Romans 8: 6-11:** God himself has taken up residence in your life.

**John 11: 1-45:** The Teacher is here, and is asking for you.

### Sunday March 29th: Palm Sunday

**Matthew 21: 1-11:** Look, your king's on his way.

**Psalms 118: 1-2, 19-end:** His love never quits.

**Isaiah 50: 4-9a:** I know how to encourage tired people.

**Psalms 31: 9-18:** My friends cross the street to avoid me.

**Philippians 2: 5-11:** He set aside the privileges of deity, and took on the status of slave.

**Matthew 26: 14-27:** They settled on thirty pieces of silver.

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

Jay & Louise Tuggey	Ruth & Tony	Paul Oates
Mike & Chris Wareham	David Lawn	Camilla Harley
Jean	Sue Moore	Pam Purkiss
Chris Reynolds	Fiona Sibley	Yvette Oburu
Gloria & Livingston Dallas	Kath Ovens	Pat Barrett
Brian Poppy	Alison Stiff	Ken Sheehan
Andy Hamilton	Christine Lutman	Stephen Dhonau
Ann Hobbs	Pauline Russell	Jean Wells
Dave & Shirley Ashdown	Verity Johnson	Joyce & Edgar Arthur
Jill Hollamby	Mike Wilkins	Eric Webb
Lindsey Morgan	Ellen Maden	Brian Jacobs
Bill Gibson Sonia	Heather Orton	Doreen Offergelt
Paul & Mark	Garth Smith	Elizabeth Lovell
Sheila Dennis	Shirley	Louise Maurer
Debbie Bell	Steve Barrett	Catharine Wilkinson

Please remember in your prayers the care givers known to you: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, paramedics, social workers, support staff, carers paid and unpaid. Our St George's care-givers list includes those with St George's links: *Toyin, Desmond, Temi, Christine, Jonathan, Marie, Luke, Emma, Jessica*; and the members of the chaplaincy teams at Croydon University Hospital, Princess Royal, and Bethlem, including *Lymbert, Deborah, Sister Sheila, Mary Geoghegan, and Sampson*.

**World Day of Prayer: Friday March 6th at 7 p.m.: Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Bingham Road: bus stops near. This year's service has been prepared by the women of Nigeria. They invite us to come and rest in Jesus - in our frantic and tired world. There is a morning World Day of Prayer option at 10 30 a.m. At St Mary of Nazareth, West Wickham (The Avenue: BR4 0DX).**

*Some of you will remember the Women's World Day of Prayer—predecessor of the World Day of Prayer. Thank you to the ladies for being inclusive - in a way the Church has not always treated them.*

**March Wild Flowers: may be found in the church garden**



Primrose



Sweet Purple Violet



Snowdrop



Daisy



Dandelion



Meadow Buttercup

**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**

info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk 020 8662 9599

**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). Surgeries 3rd Saturday of every month except December 10-11 a.m. 49A Longheath Gardens

**Police Contact:** Email SNMailbox.ShirleyNorthSNT@met.police.uk Phone: 0208 721 2474. **URGENT 999** (Other crime reports 101)

**Service**

*The measure of a person's greatness is not how many servants that person has, but the number of people that person serves.*

*Service is nothing but love in work clothes.*

## 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** Boys and Girls age 6 to 8 approx. Mr Darren Hawken 07903 399185  
Wednesdays 5-6.15 p.m. 31stcroydonscoutgroup@gmail.com

**Cubs** Boys and Girls age 8 to 10.5 approx. Mr Darren Hawken 07903 399185  
Wednesdays 6.30-8.00 p.m. 31stcroydonscoutgroup@gmail.com

**Scouts** Boys and Girls age 10.5 to 14.5 approx. Mr Darren Hawken 07903 399185  
Thursdays 6 30 - 8 p.m. 31stcroydonscoutgroup@gmail.com

*Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are currently meeting at Pinewood Scout Activity Centre*

### 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 0-5

Mondays 9 30a.m. -11 30a.m. Mrs Mary Brown marylbrown250@gmail.com  
07704311523

## Service

*Some people are willing to serve God, but only as His consultant*

*Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy in this world*

## St. George's Church Directory

**Churchwarden:** Mrs Jan Turner 020 8654 6552

### Members of the PCC

Mr Alexander Baldwin-Smith, Mrs Jan Payne, Mrs Susan Wheeler, Mrs Katie Francis, Mr Steve Westray, Mrs Elizabeth Birchenough, Mr Owen Whalley, and those office holders who are PCC members.

### Hon. Secretary PCC.

Mr Eric Baldwin-Smith

### Treasurer

**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

Mrs Sophie Clayton-Wareham 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 Editors

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

Mrs A L Clayton

### 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

Shirley Community Library

Wickham Road

020 8662 9599

info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

**Weekday mornings except  
Wednesday 10 a.m.—12 30**

### Phone Sockets/Broadband

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**Have you ever thought of writing a piece for the magazine? If not, why not? Choose your topic - within reason!**

### 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)