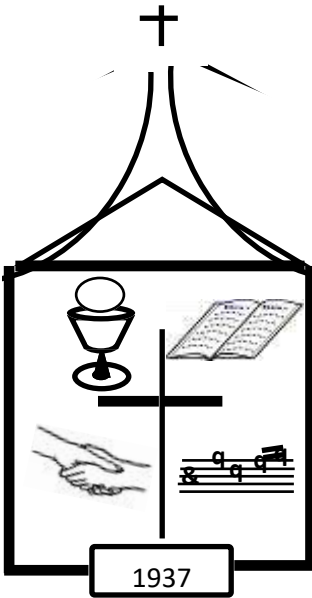


# St George the Martyr Shirley



**Christ in the Community**



**A Member of Churches Together in Shirley**

**April 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**

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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 foot-  
print YES
- Resign myself to the worst  
NO

### **Slimming World**

**Shirley**

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

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)**

Salvador Dali  
Crucifixion  
Vision of St John  
of the Cross 1951.  
Make a point of scrutinising the copy in the church—facing you as you come in. A gift from Edward and Florence McGinnis. What surprises you?



The original is in the Kelvin Grove Art Gallery in Glasgow. There were complaints about the cost to Corporation funds; but the picture made such an impression that voluntary contributions more than covered the cost.

## **A View from the South side**

April this year coincides not just with spring but also begins with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. This is good timing for us here in the northern hemisphere as the sight of green leaves and blossom suddenly appearing on brown trees, and flowers bringing colour to empty gardens, reflect the Easter joy and energy of Jesus' resurrection from the tomb. Just as the disciples descended into gloom and fear after Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, thinking that Jesus was dead and the fellowship of being his disciple and the hope of God's kingdom coming here on earth were all over - so it's easy for us at the end of winter to think that our garden plants have died and are only fit to be pulled up and thrown on the compost heap. But then suddenly, as the days lengthen and the weather warms, the new life of green leaves and flowers appear. What I really love is a mixed flower bed, or a hay meadow, full of a variety of flowers – all shapes and colours – the mix, rather than any one flower, reminding me that God made us all as individuals, not clones of each other, that we all bring different skills and gifts to enrich the world around us. God's kingdom is full of variety and joy.

Have you visited Shirley Community Library since it re-opened? Already its becoming a hive of varied activity as volunteers from our community bring their different skills and talents together to run all sorts of activities under the guidance of the lease holders, Play Place. One Tuesday a month they have an afternoon Gardening Club, usually with a speaker – and they will be taking part in our locally run Shirley in Bloom festival this summer, aiming to bring new colour to our area with flowers planted in all sorts of public places, including our front gardens. And then there is our Church garden, tended by volunteers according to our Land Management plan – some areas for wild life, some for sitting quietly and remembering those who have died, some for more active pastimes. The church garden is one of the few public open spaces in the Parish and it is good to share it with members of our community. My best memory is meeting a tortoise being exercised on the lawn. What is yours?

Now Easter is here we will also have flowers back in church – often in memory of someone whose anniversary of death it is. We are blessed to have a team of flower arrangers ensuring that these not only look good but also care for God's creation by not using plastic foam for the arrangements. When we look at the flowers in church, we can reflect on God's creative energy and the new joyous life they represent, as well as the gifts and skill of those who grew and arranged them. Easter is a reminder to us all that new life and joy can come from the hardest of situations or troubles. After the painful reminders of Holy Week, and the worrying international news of wars, may Easter be a time of joy for everyone. Happy Easter to all our readers.

**Liz Bebington, Shirley Way.**

## A Christian Aid perspective on Climate Change



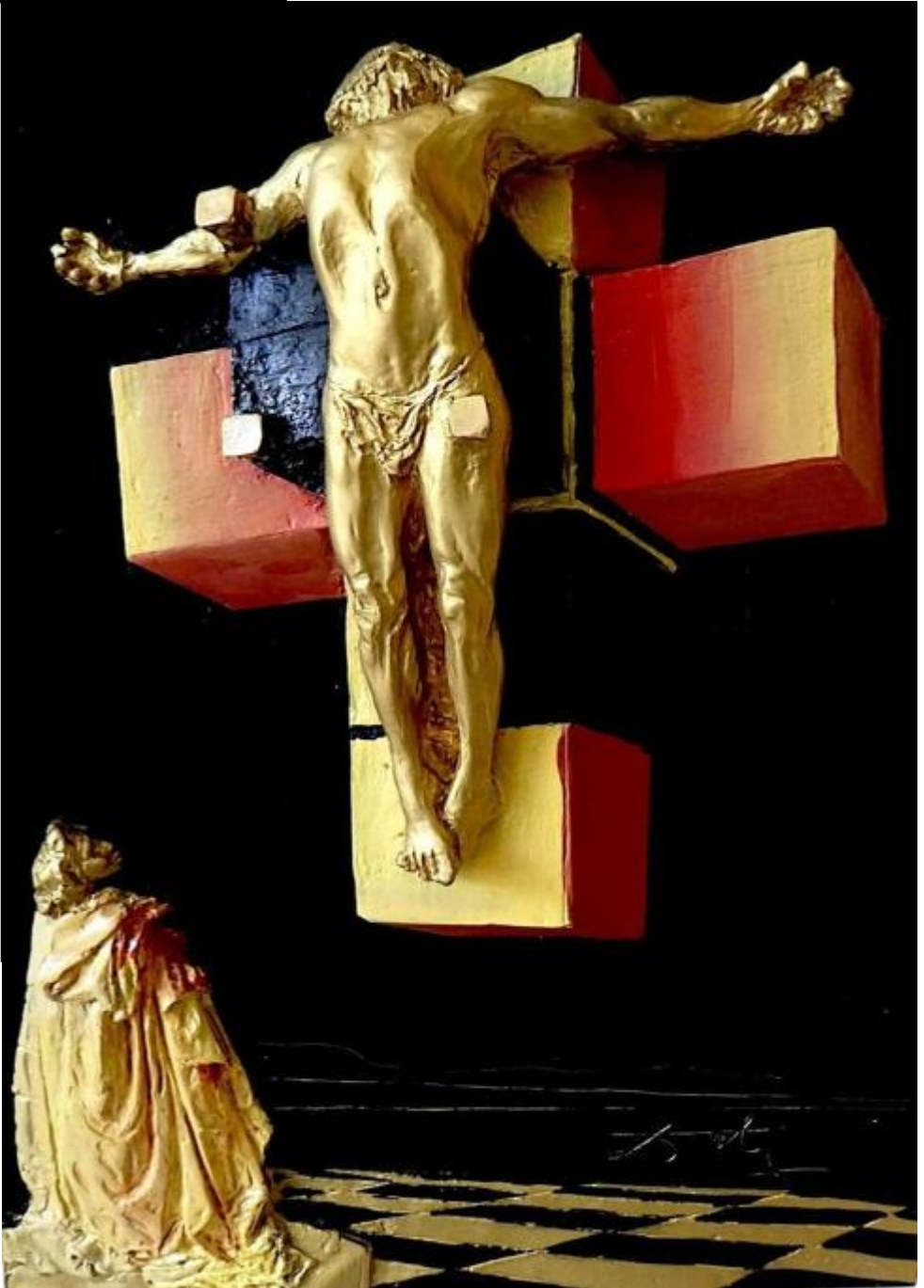
**Most expensive climate disasters of 2025** Palisades and Eaton Fire (US), South and Southeast Asia, China seasonal flooding, Hurricane Melissa (Jamaica/Cuba/Bahamas), India and Pakistan Monsoon Season, Philippines typhoons, Brazil drought, Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, Cyclone Garance (Réunion/ Mauritius), Texas

floods. **Other notable climate disasters of 2025** UK wildfires, Iberian wildfires, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador flooding, Canada drought, DRC flooding in April and May, Nigeria flooding, Iran & West Asia drought, Japan's extreme year, Antarctica heatwave. Record ocean temperatures.

The data continues to show that climate change is increasing both the likelihood and intensity of extreme weather events, including floods, heatwaves and tropical cyclones. These events are causing widespread destruction and loss of life, with the greatest impacts falling on communities that have done least to cause the crisis. These climate disasters are a warning of what lies ahead if we do not accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels. They also underline the urgent need for adaptation, particularly in the global South, where resources are stretched and people are especially vulnerable to climate shocks.

The suffering caused by the climate crisis is a political choice. It is being driven by decisions to continue burning fossil fuels, to allow emissions to rise, and to break promises on climate finance. In 2026, world leaders must act - supporting communities already adapting at a local level, and providing the resources urgently needed to protect lives, land and livelihoods.

**See page 26 regarding Christian Aid Week help needed: May 10-16**



## **Telling Good Friday as it was and is**

Salvador Dali's 1954 Crucifixion painting on the opposite page is very different from the 1951 Dali Crucifixion we have in St George's – see small picture on page 3. Christ is shown as healthy, athletic and invulnerable: no wounds, no crown of thorns, no nails. Spiritual triumph rather than physical suffering. His face is turned away: God in heaven and beyond our understanding. The four dimensional cross reflects the same theme.....divine reality beyond human comprehension. (It also looks nothing like the multi-victim instrument of torture and death that it really was.) Dali's wife, Gala, appears in the lower left-hand corner, gazing at the incomprehensible Christ: the devotion that the women who actually watched by the cross showed – though those women saw a real man dying a real death on a real cross, among a real and mainly hostile crowd.

The painting features a giant chessboard and cubes: Dali's fascination with geometry and with the interplay between earthly order and divine order. And, of course, at the real Crucifixion soldiers (used to crucifixions) were playing dice (not chess) to see who got what part of the victim's clothes. Christ floats angel-like above a barren landscape – not for nothing was Dali called a surrealist artist.

Good Friday is not easy to tell. The fundamental difficulty is the two realities: Reality One: God sacrificing Himself for our benefit, in a self-giving on God's mind from before the dawn of time, Reality Two: God Incarnate being tortured to death, naked, by a cabal of would-be powerful people who had been challenged (in word and deed) by the carpenter's son. The other difficulty is the basic [redemptive] ghastliness of the Crucifixion. Everybody can be comfortable with Easter, even if a little doubting. Nobody can be comfortable with Good Friday.

I remember attending a Confirmation (as a Godparent) where the Bishop tried to ram home the reality of Crucifixion by pushing a big nail quite hard into a boy's hand...and thinking that had I been that boy's Godfather (still more father), I might have been calling in the police. At the opposite end of the spectrum, I remember a young lady in a jeweller's asking, "Have you got one of those crosses with a little man on it?"; and thinking shall I ask whether she would fancy being stripped naked, flogged, have nails hammered through wrists and ankles, and left to die for hours of breathlessness and blood loss? Crucifixion = Redemption, but is what the name says.

### 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

We re aiming to meet monthly for half an hour of prayer together: 7 30 p.m.to 8 00 p.m., with a Zoom option where possible. A CTIS prayer leaflet will be circulated monthly for use, individually or collectively. Contact Brian McGinnis if you need details: [dunaigh2@btinternet.com](mailto:dunaigh2@btinternet.com) Probably no Zoom option April and May.

Tuesday April 7th St George's  
Wednesday May 6th Shirley Methodist

Rev Jennifer Walpole is now CTIS Chair, with Deacon Al Henny of Shirley Methodist Church as her colleague.

For further CTIS information, see the Churches Together in Shirley website

**One Person Wrote Competition on page 23 of the March edition:** *All the quotations are from books by C S Lewis, who wrote the best-selling children's "Chronicles of Narnia" series, and a space fiction trilogy, and a number of the most quoted Christian reflections books—including "Mere Christianity", "Surprised by Joy", "The Problem of Pain", "Til we have faces". "Letters to Malcolm" and "The Screwtape Letters". He also wrote some memorable poetry. I met him when we were both at Magdalene College, Cambridge. He was a friend of JRR Tolkein, of "Lord of the Rings" and "Hobbit" fame. See page 23 for this month's One person wrote challenge.*

## A Post Lenten reflection on Volunteering: Tanya White



We are told, someone who is faithful in a little is faithful in a lot. The converse is thought to be true too. Therefore it follows that those who volunteer for anything often disregard the view that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. The single stray sheep can often be the most important to help and save. Yet so many people seem to have limits on their temporal largesse. I often ask myself why do people volunteer? Each to his own of course as that is the nature of volunteering. To me though my creed is clear: the Martha and Mary conundrum has a clear winner. Prioritising the correct one is the better course as it, of course, leads to actions but ensures the actions come from a wholesome place. Also time spent in the wilderness is part and parcel of learning about salutary forbearance. As the advice on aeroplanes in an emergency goes: ensure your own oxygen supply is secured before one helps another including children. A valuable lesson in daily life. Prioritising the right things ensures that actions flow from the right place and we are more likely to fulfil our vocations with the right Spirit.

**Editor's Reflections:** *When someone is "punished" with "Community Service", the CS term is used to describe having to do good things in the community so that this is not confused with **Voluntary Service**. Voluntary service as an alternative to military service or to win a badge/award, or to bulk out your CV, or because you are a politician and need to be seen doing things, is still voluntary—but not just doing it because you want to serve. Huge numbers of family carers and good neighbours are volunteers, but under a sense of obligation and not just freely exercised good will. The sense that we owe it to each other does not, I suggest, diminish volunteering! Yes, you want to make a difference, but small is fine. The £5 donation, the petition signature, the gardening session, the cake present, the help with the shopping... Many a mickle makes a muckle; and each helps someone.*

### Some notes for you to note

- ♥ **Deadline for the May magazine, Sunday April 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. Our next journeys will be with Acts and Romans: free commentaries available NOW. (I over-ordered!)
- ♥ **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?

### R.I.P. Jean Wells

Jean died in her Beckenham care home on March 22nd. Our clergy and Carol Jones, and other friends, had been keeping in touch with her, and she with them, She received Communion regularly, looked forward to the church magazine, and appreciated our prayers—keeping us in her prayers. Jean is a great example of the “Church Family” not being only the people who regularly, or from time to time meet in the church building and the church hall. Time was when Jean and her Church Warden husband John were very much in that category; but John died many years ago, and it is several years since Jean herself was able to attend church. More recent members of the Church Family will know the name, but will never have seen the person, Heather Orton was one of those who regularly visited her in Tower View (requiring some effort), once Jean became less mobile: “the (vital) visiting ministry”. In the days of her active physical involvement, Jean was one of those quiet ladies who was there when needed, and did the things that were needed. We missed her active presence.

Details of funeral arrangements in due course.

## Do it yourself parables (2); The Gardening Club



Melthorpe Gardening Club was a well-established local group—bringing together active gardeners, one-time gardeners, and people who wanted to talk to other people (maybe about gardens). The active gardeners were broadly divided into “shiners” and “sharers”. The shiners were in general competitive: fixated on the best garden competition; keen on getting knowledge, not keen on sharing it. The sharers were keen to acquire

and share knowledge.

Paula Just was the MGC Secretary: an odd choice, as a single parent living in a one bedroom flat over a shop. She had some (much cherished) pot plants, and a window box that looked modestly good all year. She enjoyed what she saw of other people's gardens, and gladly shared her very limited spare time with the MGC. Annie Rexo was MGC Chair; middle-aged and single (neither by choice!). Her potential life partner had walked in front of a bus while she was walking with him, leaving her with a memory that did not fade with the passing years. She found her own garden fulfilling, and was keen to be useful in supporting other gardeners. She joined in the annual garden competition - duty not expectation.

A local journalist, with a “community” space to fill, interviewed MGC members. Mr Dagleish (current “best garden”) said he enjoyed MGC because he could suss out the opposition, pick up information, and stay on top. He reluctantly acknowledged that this could be called “Learning from others”; but shook off the idea of “sharing”. Annie Rexo said her motivation was sharing with like-minded people: celebrating the results of working with God/nature in good years, and cheering each other up in bad years. The journalist said, “So, togetherness?” She said “Absolutely!”

The journalist asked Pauline, “So, who is the best gardener this year: shiner or sharer?” After a pause, she said, “The shining shows, but the sharing lasts”.

## Vocation

(March article about Choice prompted questions about Vocation)



You can look up what “vocation” means - “The job you are best suited to” is often offered; and its Latin root meaning “calling”. The way we actually use the word doesn’t always tally with what it actually means! In church circles, it tends to mean being a priest/minister (or monk/nun), or (second best) one of the various lay ministries such as reader. In popular usage, it tends to mean a life-time profession, as opposed to an ordinary job. In that context, the Careers picture above is interesting. I would have expected “career” to mean a job which leads on to “higher” jobs? The other picture implies that, for people of faith at least, vocation means the coming together of what I want to do and what I believe God wants me to do, (The Jonah parable is about conflict between me choice and God choice.) The God bit includes how God wants me to do what I do.

Bible highlights are about special people being called to do special things... and not necessarily jumping at the opportunity! But the Bible message is that we are all special and all called.. and, indeed, that the ordinary is special.

Margaret Ziolek had a teaching vocation in all meanings of the term Vocation: God-calling, best-suited... Many people feel called, but never go/get - for all sorts of reasons, including a family-building vocation “getting in the way”. Many people pursue (successfully or otherwise) more than one calling: e.g. most politicians and a lot of ministers. Perhaps the majority of people do a range of jobs without any strong sense of vocation (or career). Paid job choice is pretty limited for many people - though humble dreamers achieve miracles by acting on their dreams. Carers find free-time an “if only”. **BUT** everybody can choose how they do what they do; giving their best, partnership with God, partnership with others.

**Poetry Page: : Malcolm Guite: Easter 2020**

*And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?*

*Not lost in our locked churches, anymore*

*Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.*

*The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,*

*And he is up and risen, long before,*

*Alive, at large, and making his strong way*

*Into the world he gave his life to save,*

*No need to seek him in his empty grave.*

*He might have been a wafer in the hands*

*Of priests this day, or music from the lips*

*Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips*

*Away from church, shakes off our linen bands*

*To don his apron with a nurse: he grips*

*And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands*

*The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,*

*Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.*

*On Thursday we applauded, for he came*

*And served us in a thousand names and faces*

*Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces*

*Of that corona which was death to him:*

*Good Friday happened in a thousand places*

*Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them*

*That they might share his Easter in their need,*

*Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.*

## That odd business of Praying: 175 : Meditation

The English term *meditation* is derived from Old French *meditacioun*, in turn from Latin *meditatio* from a verb *meditari*, meaning "to think, contemplate, devise, ponder". In the Catholic tradition, the use of the term *meditatio* as part of a formal, stepwise process of meditation dates back to at least the 12th-century monk Guigo II, before which the Greek word *theoria* was used for the same purpose. The practice of meditation is commonly associated with yoga, and, for



many people, is really about self rather than about God. If you don't believe in God, you are not be going to want to focus all your attention on God. So I'm not condemning the godless version of contemplation, or suggesting that believers should not do yoga.

But if you do believe, there is a lot to be said for the God focus - partly to keep the sometimes all too dominant me focus under control!

As to position for meditation, I confess I could not get into the position shown here. If you can, and can stay focussed (rather than being pre-occupied with how you are going to get up again), so be it. But comfortable and relaxed, without dosing off, is a good starting point, and an individual thing.

Meditation is about what goes on in your head - without necessarily using your mouth (or a please God intercessions list); but ears and eyes and hands and nose (probably choosing one of these) can help. Play reflective music. Read a short Bible text. Hold e.g. a cross. Smell e.g. a little incense, or a nature smell. If you do want to use your mouth, the name of Jesus might do it for you. If you have a good imagination, creating your own God picture in your head may work, although imagining sitting on the hillside with the crowds listening to Jesus is maybe easier. (After all, Bible imaginings of what God looks like can leave us cold.....and Jesus, when asked to show God, said "Who has seen me. Has seen the Father".) *If you have more things to say about meditation, this space*

## Like a Child (with thanks to Andy Reynolds): Frederick Buechner writes

*When the Disciples, over-earnest as ever, asked Jesus who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, Jesus pulled a child out of the crowd and said the greatest in the kingdom of heaven were people like this (Matthew 18:1-4). Two thousand years of homiletic sentimentalising to the contrary notwithstanding, Jesus was not being sentimental. He was saying that the people who get into heaven are people who, like children, don't worry about it too much. They are people who, like children, live with their hands open more than with their fists clenched. They are people who, like children, are so relatively unburdened by preconceptions that if somebody says there's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, they are perfectly willing to go take a look for themselves. Children aren't necessarily better than other people. Like the child in "The Emperor's New Clothes," they are just apt to be better at telling the difference between a phony and the real thing.*

I read this on a Sunday morning when there was a radio debate about whether parents or children or schools should decide whether children attended school worship (if any), and attended religious education lessons (if any). The UK laws, wisely, do not allow children to make all decisions for themselves. 50 years ago, St George's hosted a lot of children and young people from families where the parents were not church-goers. Those parents felt, as they felt about Baptism, that the Christian thing might or might not be true, but let the children explore it while they were still children... And, in due course, decide for themselves. Now, conventions are different; and safe-guarding considerations loom larger.

The best way of looking at what Jesus said about children is probably that, strange as it may seem: (a) adults should have something of the open-mindedness (willingness to learn) that children have; (b) children can teach us (often by their questions) as well as needing to learn from us.

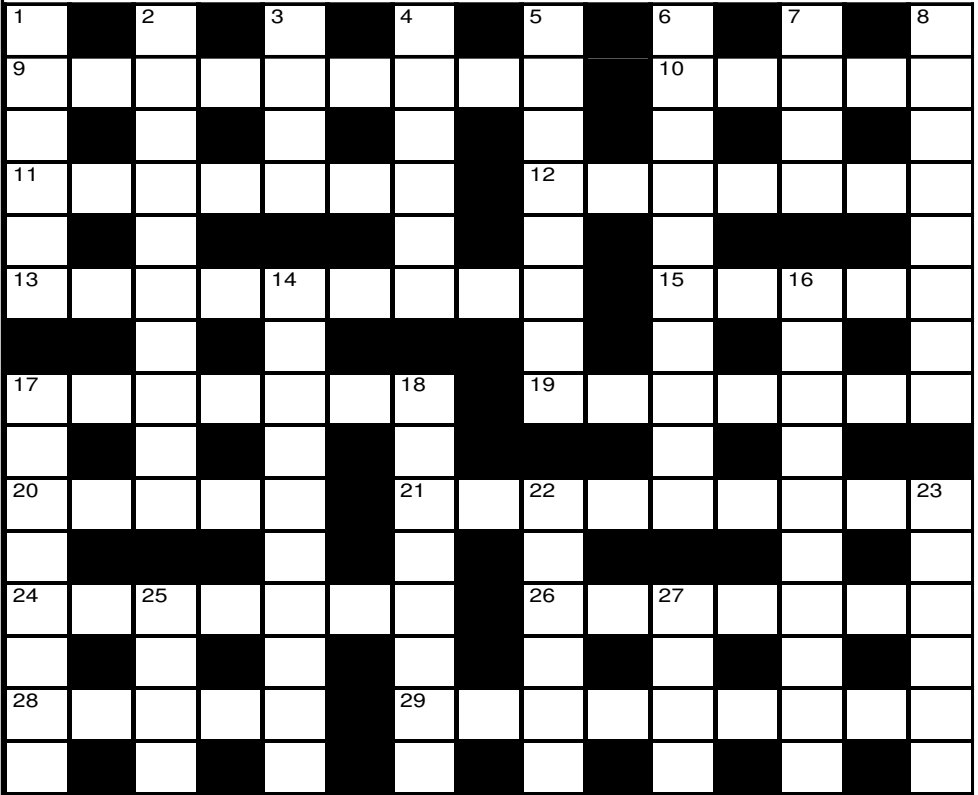


| <b>CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL 2026</b>   |  |  | <b>Dates</b><br>4.00pm                            |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>☑ Morning Prayer:</b><br><b>Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.00am Zoom only</b> |  |  |   |
|  |  |  | ☑   |
|  |  |  | 10.00am<br>11.30am<br>Chapel<br>7.30pm<br>Worship |
| Sun 5 April<br>EASTER DAY  | ☑ Mon 6 April<br>BANK HOLIDAY  | ☑ Tue 7 April  | ☑   |
| 10.00 Sung Eucharist   |  | 7 30 p.m. Churches<br>Together prayers in<br>Lady Chapel | 10.00am<br>11.30am<br>Chapel                      |
| Sun 12 April<br>EASTER 1   | ☑ Mon 13 April   | ☑ Tue 14 April   | ☑   |
| 10.00 All-Age Sung<br>Eucharist with Church<br>Parade                      | 10.30am-12.00 Pop-In<br>9.30-11.30am Little<br>Dragons<br>7.30pm Bible Reading Group |  | 10.00am<br>11.30am<br>Chapel                      |
| Sun 19 April<br>EASTER 2   | ☑ Mon 20 April   | ☑ Tue 21 April   | ☑   |
| 10.00 Sung Eucharist   | 10.30am-12.00 Pop-In<br>9.30-11.30am Little<br>Dragons<br>7.30pm Bible Reading Group |  | 10.00am<br>11.30am<br>Chapel                      |
| Sun 26 April<br>PATRONAL   | ☑ Mon 27 April   | ☑ Tue 28 April   | ☑   |
| 10.00 Sung Eucharist   | 10.30am-12.00 Pop-In<br>7.30pm Bible Reading Group                                   |  | 10.00am<br>11.30am<br>Chapel                      |

**for you Diary:** Summer July 18<sup>th</sup> - Summer Church and Community Hog Roast Event from

Sunday May 17th 12 noon: Annual Parish Meeting—after  
Morning Service

|                                     |   |   |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Wed 1 April                         | ▼ Thurs 2 April<br>MAUNDY<br>THURSDAY         | ▼ Fri 3 April<br>GOOD FRIDAY  | Sat 4 April                      |
| Church Cleaning<br>Eucharist - Lady | 7.00pm Maundy<br>Thursday Meal and<br>Liturgy | 11.30am Walk of<br>Witness<br>12.30 Hot Cross<br>Buns in the Hall<br>2.00pm Last Hour of<br>the Cross |                                  |
| Holy Week<br>: Lady Chapel          |   |   |                                  |
| Wed 8 April                         | ▼ Thurs 9 April                               | ▼ Fri 10 April  | Sat 11 April                     |
| Church Cleaning<br>Eucharist - Lady |   |   |                                  |
| Wed 15 April                        | ▼ Thurs 16 April                              | ▼ Fri 17 April  | Sat 18 April                     |
| Church Cleaning<br>Eucharist - Lady |   |   |                                  |
| Wed 22 April                        | ▼ Thurs 23 April                              | ▼ Fri 24 April  | Sat 25 April                     |
| Church Cleaning<br>Eucharist - Lady |   |   | 7.00pm QuizFest -<br>Church Hall |
| Wed 29 April                        | ▼ Thurs 30 April                              |   |                                  |
| Church Cleaning<br>Eucharist - Lady |   |   |                                  |



Solon 195

**Across**

- 9 Gardener's investment plan? (5,4)
- 10 Insect I love about publication (5)
- 11 A cup wasted (7)
- 12 Stream unfashionable return of pack animal (7)
- 13 St Peter and father set exam? (4,5)
- 15 Aspect has a look to a T (5)
- 17 Clever remark from mad Dr Marie (7)
- 19 Satie left odd feature films to find scarf (7)
- 20 Principally, does one's greyhound grab you like a canine (5)
- 21 Potentially sprung say - they provide cover (5,4)

24 Unhinged achiever with no echo produces records (7)

- 26 Principally Harry and Ron are often, in a scale of 0-14, makes for an ancient bigwig (7)
- 28 Cover in telecom giant is cut off (5)
- 29 Odd if peelers can change into politicians (4,5)

**Down**

- 1 Frustrate tense husband with skin problem (6)
- 2 Speaking to or dealing with one's correspondence (10)
- 3 Tide's sleep that surrounds the fourth in line (4)
- 4 Keep afloat when yob flips we hear (4,2)

- 5 Incomplete notion carries no weight but provides character (8)
- 6 Even chance that two learners get together (5-5)
- 7 Bird on track (4)
- 8 Blue shower at ebb tide (3,5)
- 14 Naughty interplays make for old fashioned telecommunications (5,5)
- 16 Carefully thought out and measured (10)
- 17 They may become mates on board (8)
- 18 Virtuoso comes from Harley St diversion when Henry is replaced by Mike (8)
- 22 A con? That's torn it! (3-3)
- 23 After school is my initial break (6)
- 25 Icon changes currency? (4)
- 27 In the morning an afterthought provides power (4)

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

**Answers to puzzles:-**

**Crossword: Across:** 1 Baldachin, 8 Friaries, 9 Aerate, 10 Decide, 11 Out of use, 12 Ranger, 15 Knitwear, 16 In a flash, 19 Gadget, 21 Kilogram, 22 Oboist, 24 Dampen, 25 Recreate, 26 Stud, 27 Enlargers. **Down:** 1 Burse, 2 Leading, 3 Amice, 4 Hassock, 5 Near thing, 6 Very few, 7 Intestate, 13 Annuitant, 14 Rearrange, 17 Footpad, 18/6A Humoral veil, 20 Diocese, 22 Oscar, 23 Sites.

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

**Ideas**

*Facts when combined with ideas constitute the greatest force in the world.*

*Too many people run out of ideas long before they run out of words.*

*An idea does not have to be popular to be right.*

*Ideas are funny things. They don't work unless you do.*

*An idea is information with legs and a sense of direction.*

*Other people can also have good ideas.  
 Listen long enough to learn.*

*How good a red-hot idea is depends on how much heat it loses when someone throws cold water on it.*

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

I'm most important because I've known him the longest

But I'm the oldest!

I've given up the most to follow him!

There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...

The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the feet washing...

Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist.

He filled a large bowl with water and started washing the disciples' feet.

Peter couldn't believe what he was seeing!

Are you really going to wash my feet?

You will understand later why I am doing this.

I can't ever let you serve me like this!

If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple

Then wash all of me!

If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!

Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down.

Do you understand why I, your teacher, did this? I am setting you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.

## How do you feel about feet-washing?

If you are a parent or a carer, you will know about feet-washing. If you are someone who can't wash their own feet, you will know about feet-washing from the receiving end. We all had our feet (and everything else) washed by someone else when we were very young, though probably we don't remember much about that experience. Chiropodists and podiatrists know a lot about handling feet, including the "worst sort" of feet. In the bare feet in sandals days of Jesus, feet were probably a great deal dirtier, though possibly rather less smelly, than feet are today.

Maundy Thursday is the annual occasion in many churches when the minister (top person in a church sense) washes one foot of a number of members of the congregation—who have no doubt prepared by e.g. not wearing tights and making sure that the foot is presentable. Not everybody likes exposing their feet.. or indeed likes being served in this way. Royalty have been known to wash feet; but (understandably) tend to prefer the giving of Maundy money, Pope Francis used to wash the feet of prisoners at the Rome gaol. (I guess the gaolers made sure the feet had been washed beforehand; but I may be wrong.) Francis was a prime example (though not the only example) of the Pope as *Servus Servorum Dei* - *Servant of the Servants of God*.



**What do these 3 different churches have in common?**



**.Try the quiz below: one person wrote/spoke all these lines. Who was it?**

*I am ready to meet my Maker - but whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter.*

*When I was younger I made it a rule never to take strong drink before lunch. It is now my rule never to do so before breakfast*

*Of course I'm an egoist. Where do you get if you aren't?*

*The Almighty in His infinite wisdom did not see fit to create Frenchmen in the image of Englishmen.*

*He is a modest man who has a great deal to be modest about.*

*In war: resolution; in defeat: defiance; in victory: magnanimity; in peace: goodwill.*

*A nation that forgets its past has no future.*

*Never trust a man who has not a single redeeming vice.*

*Let there be women!*

*It would be a great reform in politics if wisdom could be spread as easily and rapidly as folly.*

*A politician requires the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year, And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen.*

*I no longer listen to what people say. I watch what they do. Actions never lie.*

## Maybe a Smile

**From a church notice-sheet:** This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

**Nice:** The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

**Some hymns for people over 50:** Give Me the Old Timers' Religion  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up  
Just a Slower Walk with Thee  
Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up  
Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have  
Seeing  
Guide Me O Thou Great Lord God, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked  
The Car  
Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One  
Blessed Insurance  
It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

**Wheels:** A boy was praying for a bicycle, and the vicar told him to persevere, as prayer could do anything. The following week, when the boy arrived for church on a bicycle, the vicar assured him that his prayers had been heard. The boy looked embarrassed. "Actually, I stole the bike, and now I'm here to pray for forgiveness".

**Show and Tell:** A schoolteacher asked her students to each bring in an object that represented their religion. The first student got up and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got up and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Baptist, and this is a casse-  
role."

**Economic definitions:** A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

**Cured:** A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."

**Polite:** A New York traffic expert says that some London taxi drivers are refreshingly different – and witty – compared to those in New York. He tells the story of the London taxi driver who screeched to a halt when a tourist bolted into the road, and then stopped, looking around in confusion. Leaning out of the window the taxi driver asked very politely: "I say, sir, may I ask, what are your immediate plans?"

## Sunday Readings for April (Message Version)

### Thursday 2 April: Maundy Thursday

**Exodus 12: 1-14:** Celebrate it as a festival to God through the generations

**1 Corinthians 11: 23-26:** This is my body, broken for you

**John 13: 1-17, 31b-35:** He continued to love them right to the end

### Friday 3 April: Good Friday

**Isaiah 52:13 - end 53:** What was unthinkable they'll have right before them

**Hebrews 10: 16-25:** I'll forever wipe the slate clean of their sin

**John 18:1-end 19:** Just then a rooster crowed

### Sunday 5 April: Easter Day

**Acts 10:34-43:** It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer

**Colossians 3: 1-4:** Your old life is dead

**John 20:1-18:** Jesus said, "Mary"

### Sunday 12 April: Easter 2

**Acts 2:14a, 22-32:** The deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God

**1 Peter 1: 3-9:** Genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine

**John 20: 19-end:** Just as the Father sent me, I send you

### Sunday 19 April: Easter 3

**Acts 2: 14a, 36-41:** Change your life

**1 Peter 1: 17-23:** God won't let you get by with sloppy living

**Luke 24: 13-35:** At that moment. Open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognised Him

### Sunday 26 April: St George

**1 Maccabees 2 : 59-64:**

**2 Timothy 2: 3-13:** God's word isn't in jail

**John 15: 18-21:** The world is going to hate you

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

Camilla Harley  
Paul Oates  
Pat Barrett  
Fiona Sibley  
Mike Wilkins  
Pam Purkis

Ken Sheehan  
Mark & Paul Hare  
Catharine Wilkinson  
Jill Hollamby  
Chris Reynolds  
Heather Orton

Verity Johnson  
Steve Barrett  
Ruth & Tony  
Alison Stiff  
Debbie Bell

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.*

**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. Envelopes will also be available in church.***



### Moths matter

Moths do not get a good press. Say “moths”, and the immediate association is often “clothes” and “moth-eaten”: what you definitely don’t want, rather than what you do want. But in this Wild About Gardens campaign year, it is good to think positively about moths—as the RHS has recently reminded us. Moths means 2,500 different UK species; moth caterpillars as a key food source for birds, bats, frogs, etc . (A baby Blue Tit may eat 100 caterpillars a day for its first 3 weeks!) Moths are important pollinators—day and night; and the backbone of our garden eco systems. The idea that moths are plain things and butterflies (the other part of the Lepidoptera family) things of beauty is very wide of the truth. Some moths are great travellers, despite being small and fragile. The Silver Y Moth (4cm wing-span) migrates 1000 miles from Africa to the UK in Summer.

Diverse gardens with nectar-rich plants attract moths. Strongly scented flowers, including night-scented flowers such as Evening Primrose or Dame’s Violet help. Moths are attracted to Nettle, Burdock, Wild Madder, Bedstraw, Fuchsia, Willow-herb, Nightshade, Bedstraw, Oak, Birch, and, not least, Ivy.



Silver Y Moth



Garden Tiger Moth



Jersey Tiger Moth



Humming Bird Hawk Moth



T Moth



Orange Underwing Moth

## 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). 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)

## **Love**

*The world needs more warm hearts and fewer hot heads*

*You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving*

*Love is a little word; people make it big.*

## 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

### Love

*The love of God cannot be earned. It can be spurned.*

*Love is more easily demonstrated than defined*

*Service is love in work clothes*

## 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](mailto: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 +*

m



**St George the Martyr**

Elstan Way, Shirley, Croydon. (off the Glade)

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

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

(Charity Number: 1134140)